



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

March 14, 2013

Mr. Mark E. Reddemann
Chief Executive Officer
Energy Northwest
P.O. Box 968 (Mail Drop 1023)
Richland, WA 99352-0968

SUBJECT: COLUMBIA GENERATING STATION - REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL
INFORMATION REGARDING PROPOSED ALTERNATIVE TO USE CODE
CASE N-795 (TAC NO. MF0319)

Dear Mr. Reddemann:

By letter dated November 27, 2012 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML12340A066), Energy Northwest (the licensee) submitted a request to use American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) *Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code* (Code) Case N-795, "Alternative Requirements for BWR [Boiling-Water Reactor] Class 1 System Leakage Test Pressure Following Repair/Replacement Activities, Section XI, Division 1," as an alternative to the system leak test pressure requirement of the ASME Code section IWB-5221(a) at Columbia Generating Station.

The NRC staff is reviewing your submittal and has determined that additional information is required to complete its review. The specific information requested is addressed in the enclosure to this letter. Please provide your response within 45 days of the date of this letter.

The NRC staff considers that timely responses to requests for additional information help ensure sufficient time is available for staff review and contribute toward the NRC's goal of efficient and effective use of staff resources. If circumstances result in the need to revise the requested response date, please contact me at (301) 415-2296 or Fred.Lyon@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "CF Lyon".

Carl F. Lyon, Project Manager
Plant Licensing Branch IV
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-397

Enclosure:
As stated

cc w/encl: Distribution via Listserv

REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
PROPOSED ALTERNATIVE TO USE CODE CASE N-795
ENERGY NORTHWEST
COLUMBIA GENERATING STATION
DOCKET NO. 50-397

By letter dated November 27, 2012 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML12340A066), Energy Northwest (the licensee) submitted a request to use American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) *Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code* (Code) Case N-795, "Alternative Requirements for BWR [Boiling-Water Reactor] Class 1 System Leakage Test Pressure Following Repair/Replacement Activities, Section XI, Division 1," as an alternative to the system leak test pressure requirement of the ASME Code section IWB-5221(a) at Columbia Generating Station.

In order to complete its review, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff requests the following additional information:

1. Code Case N-795 has not been accepted by the NRC staff in the latest revision to Regulatory Guide 1.147, "Inservice Inspection Code Case Acceptability, ASME Section XI, Division 1." It is the NRC staff's position that after pressurization, a hold time of 1 hour for non-insulated components and 8 hours for insulated components is required prior to conducting the required VT-2 visual examination. If the shorter hold times specified in ASME Code Case N-795 are to be used, please provide the technical basis for their use.

Enclosure

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/RA/

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*via memo dated

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