

NRR-PMDAPEm Resource

From: Chawla, Mahesh
Sent: Wednesday, March 05, 2014 5:06 PM
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Cc: Collins, Jay; Cumblidge, Stephen; Lupold, Timothy; Carlson, Robert; Duncan, Eric; Taylor, Thomas; Scarbeary, April; Shah, Swetha
Subject: LIC-109 Acceptance of RR 4-18 - Proposed Alternative, Use of Alternate ASME Code Case N-770-1 Baseline Examination - MF3508

By letter dated February 25, 2014 Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. (the licensee), proposed an alternative to 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(6)(ii)(F)(3) for Palisades Nuclear Plant (Palisades). This regulation defines the inspection requirement for branch connection butt welds at Palisades in accordance with American Society of Mechanical Engineer's Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code Case N-770-1, "Alternative Examination Requirements and Acceptance Standards for Class 1 PWR Piping and Vessel Nozzle Butt Welds Fabricated With UNS N06082 or UNS W86182 Weld Filler Material With or Without Application of Listed Mitigation Activities," with NRC conditions. The licensee is requesting an extension of the required inspection for at least one cycle of operation.

The purpose of this letter is to provide the results of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff's acceptance review of this relief request. The acceptance review was performed to determine if there is sufficient technical information in scope and depth to allow the NRC staff to complete its detailed technical review. The acceptance review is also intended to identify whether the application has any readily apparent information insufficiencies in its characterization of the regulatory requirements or the licensing basis of the plant.

Pursuant to Sections 50.55a(a)(3)(i) and 50.55a(a)(3)(ii) of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), the applicant shall demonstrate that the proposed alternatives would provide an acceptable level of quality and safety, or that compliance with the specified requirements of Section 50.55a would result in hardship or unusual difficulty without a compensating increase in the level of quality or safety.

The NRC staff has reviewed your application and concluded that it does provide technical information in sufficient detail to enable the NRC staff to complete its detailed technical review and make an independent assessment regarding the acceptability of the proposed amendment in terms of regulatory requirements and the protection of public health and safety and the environment. Given the lesser scope and depth of the acceptance review as compared to the detailed technical review, there may be instances in which issues that impact the NRC staff's ability to complete the detailed technical review are identified despite completion of an adequate acceptance review. You will be advised of any further information needed to support the NRC staff's detailed technical review by separate correspondence.

If you have any further questions, please contact me. Thanks

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