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SUBJECT: Informs that acceptability of future weld exams performed under requirements of Code Case N-460 to be verified during future NRC insps at util nuclear sites, based on listed info & info provided to NRC during 950111 telcon.

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3. A discussion was held to clarify differences in the definition "Limited" as defined by Code Case N-460 and as implemented by Duke. Code Case N-460 defines a limited weld examination as being less than 90% coverage where as Duke more conservatively defines a limited weld examination as being less than 100% coverage.
4. A discussion of Duke's technical basis for Request for Relief 93-GO-001 was provided to the NRC staff members. The major points of the technical basis were:
 - McGuire Unit 1 Examination Data
 - Subsequent investigation of the 233 referenced welds (in the McGuire Unit 1 examination data) revealed only 98 (~23%) were limited by application of the NRC accepted definition (Code Case 460) of "Limited".
 - Duke made the best effort possible at the time of the examination to maximize coverage by utilizing technical expertise from outside of Duke Power, ensuring detailed weld preparation/grinding, and the latest state of the art examination techniques.
 - Duke plans to inspect 100% of Class 1 welds during the next inspection interval. Duke will achieve 90% coverage or request relief as needed on specific welds. It is not Duke's intent to accelerate the normal inservice inspection schedule for the current intervals.

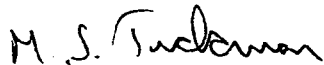
Based on the information described above and provided to the NRC Staff representatives during the January 11, 1995 conference call, the NRC Staff representatives felt this item could be handled through the NRC enforcement/inspection program. Therefore, the acceptability of future weld examinations performed under the requirements of Code Case N-460 are to be verified during future NRC inspections at each of the Duke nuclear sites. The plan to include this matter in the future enforcement/inspection program was made tentatively during the January 11, 1995 conference call, pending concurrence by appropriate NRC management. The acceptability of this proposed approach was confirmed to J. S. Warren, Duke Power by V. Nerses, ONRR in a February 8, 1995 telephone conversation.

Based on the February 8, 1995 telephone call referenced above, Duke does not feel there is a need to further pursue this matter as a formal request for relief.

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We appreciate the efforts of the NRC Staff in helping to achieve resolution of this matter.

Very truly yours,



M. S. Tuckman

MST/JSW

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DUKE POWER

February 28, 1995

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTENTION: Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555

SUBJECT: Duke Power Company
Oconee Nuclear Station
Docket Nos. 50-269,270, 287

McGuire Nuclear Station
Docket Nos. 50-369, 370

Catawba Nuclear Station
Docket Nos. 50-413, 414

Request for Relief from ASME Section XI Requirements
Duke Power Request for Relief 93-GO-001

In a letter dated December 2, 1993, Duke Power requested relief pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a. The requested relief was for past weld examinations that did not meet the requirements of ASME Code Section XI, specifically the clarified requirements of Code Case N-460. In a letter dated October 26, 1994 the NRC declined to approve this requested relief (designated Duke Request for Relief 93-GO-001) on a generic basis. Following receipt of the October 26, 1994 NRC letter, Duke requested a conference call with appropriate members of the NRC Staff to discuss possible alternatives available to resolve this matter. On January 11, 1995 a conference call was held between NRC and Duke representatives for the purpose of discussing Request for Relief 93-GO-001. During the conference call, Duke provided the following information to the NRC Staff.

1. A background discussion was provided on Request for Relief 93-GO-1 to ensure that NRC and Duke personnel had a clear understanding of the issues associated with it.
2. Duke provided the NRC with an explanation of the reasonable limitations associated with providing the NRC with an item-by-item listing of the affected welds (as referenced in the October 26, 1994 NRC letter).

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