



February 4, 2019

Secretary
ATTN: Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Subject: Comments Concerning Proposed Rule 10 CFR 50, "*American Society of Mechanical Engineers 2015-2017 Code Editions Incorporation by Reference*" (83FR53156, dated November 9, 2018, Docket ID NRC-2016-0082)

This letter is being submitted in response to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) request for comments concerning Proposed Rule 10 CFR 50, "*American Society of Mechanical Engineers 2015-2017 Code Editions Incorporation by Reference*," published in the *Federal Register* on November 9, 2018 (i.e., 83FR53156).

The NRC is proposing to amend its regulations to incorporate by reference seven recent editions and addenda to the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) codes for nuclear power plants and a standard for quality assurance. The NRC is also proposing to incorporate by reference four ASME code cases. This action is in accordance with the NRC's policy to periodically update the regulations to incorporate by reference new editions and addenda of the ASME codes and is intended to maintain the safety of nuclear power plants and to make NRC activities more effective and efficient.

Exelon Generation Company, LLC (Exelon) appreciates the opportunity to comment and offers the attached comments on certain sections on this proposed rule for consideration by the NRC.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Richard Gropp at (610) 765-5557.

Respectfully,

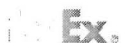
David T. Gudger
Manager, Licensing and Regulatory Affairs
Exelon Generation Company, LLC

Attachment

Comments Concerning Proposed Rule 10 CFR 50, "*American Society of Mechanical Engineers
2015–2017 Code Editions Incorporation by Reference*"

10 CFR 50.55a Section	Comments on Proposed Changes
§50.55a(b)(2)(xx)(B)	<p>Exelon suggests removing this condition. The NRC proposes to amend the condition found in § 50.55a(b)(2)(xx)(B) to clarify its expectations related to the Nondestructive Examination (NDE) required when a system leakage test is performed (in lieu of a hydrostatic test). As indicated in previous rulemaking comments provided to the NRC, mandating Section III Construction Code NDE acceptance criteria to systems and components that were not originally designed or constructed to meet Section III is believed to be inappropriate. NDE alone does not ensure structural integrity. Construction codes ensure structural integrity through a combination of many factors, including material testing, design formulas, design factors, and qualification of personnel. Adding more NDE than required by the Construction Code (whether ASME Section III or B31.1) is considered unnecessary to ensure structural integrity and could be inappropriate for certain situations (e.g., volumetric NDE required of a non-volumetric quality casting).</p> <p>If the condition still stands after consideration of any comments, Exelon offers the following editorial comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First sentence: Insert "Edition" after "1992 or later." • Last sentence: Insert "program" after "ISI."
§50.55a(b)(2)(xxvi)	<p>From the 2007 through the 2017 Edition of ASME Section XI, installed items rotated from stock meeting the requirements of IWA-4132 are considered outside of the requirements of IWA-4000 (i.e., repair/replacement activities) and exempted from preservice examinations, including pressure testing under IWA-4540; therefore, Exelon believes that §50.55a(b)(2)(xxvi) should not apply to installed items rotated from stock.</p>
§50.55a(b)(2)(xxii)	<p>Exelon understands that Code changes are in progress to extend the submittal timeframe for reports like this to 120 days. Therefore, Exelon recommends this timing be adopted in the rule as well, since it is consistent with other industry inspection results' reporting time periods.</p>
§50.55a(g)(6)(ii)(D)(5)	<p>While it is understood that MRP-335-3A is required to be followed for peening application and inspection relief, since the NRC is allowing condition 5.4 of the topical report to not apply, could the additional clarification that the Extent and Frequency of Examination of Item B4.60 of N-729-6 be applied and added to the rule? Exelon believes that this will help validate a user trying to understand what the condition of MRP-335 not applying means in the context of the Code Case since they will still need to comply with the non-peening related portions of the Code Case.</p>
§50.55a(g)(6)(ii)(F)(15)	<p>Exelon suggests removing this condition. In the explanation section of the proposed rule, the NRC indicates there is insufficient technical basis to support the difference in inspection frequency between N-1 and M-2 welds. As noted in the Code Case and technical basis for the EWR repair method, the N-1 repair is a full 360-degree EWR with stress reversal. Therefore, while there is a flaw with an N-1 weld, stress reversal is obtained with the EWR to preclude flaw growth while the M-2 weld EWR does not achieve stress reversal. That is a key technical difference in the two repairs and why the N-1 EWR should allow the sampling strategy as provided in the Code Case.</p>

10 CFR 50.55a Section	Comments on Proposed Changes
§50.55a(f)(7)	<p>Due to changes in ASME Section XI, snubber inspection and testing programs are no longer part of the standard site Inservice Inspection (ISI) programs and are now implemented using the ASME OM Code. The wording in the proposed rulemaking is unclear as to whether snubber programs are required to comply with the rules of site Inservice Testing (IST) programs, which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requiring sites to submit changes to their plans to the NRC Headquarters, the appropriate NRC Regional Office, and the appropriate NRC Resident Inspector within 90 days of implementation. • Submittal of preservice test period, initial inservice test interval, and successive inservice test intervals. • Submittal of interim Plan updates that involve any of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Classification of components and boundaries of system classification; ○ Identification of components subject to tests and examination; ○ Identification of components exempt from testing or examination; ○ ASME OM Code requirements for components and the test or examination to be performed; ○ ASME Code requirements for components that are not being satisfied by the tests or examinations; and justification for alternative tests or examinations; ○ ASME OM Code Cases planned for use and the extent of their application; or ○ Test or examination frequency or schedule for performance of tests and examinations as applicable. <p>The proposed requirements listed for IST (including site snubber programs) are believed to be an excessive burden without providing any additional level of quality. Requiring sites to submit subtle changes to their program documentation (e.g., program plan, classifications, schedules, etc.) within 90 days of implementation to NRC Headquarters, Regional Offices, and Resident Inspectors is considered an unnecessary burden without any accompanying increase in quality or safety. This documentation could be readily available at the sites, with specific items provided to the NRC on an as needed basis.</p> <p>It should also be noted that the NRC no longer requires sites to provide updates to ISI programs, with the only required ISI submittals being the post outage Summary Report / Owner Activity Report required under 10 CFR 50.55a(b)(2)(xxxii).</p>



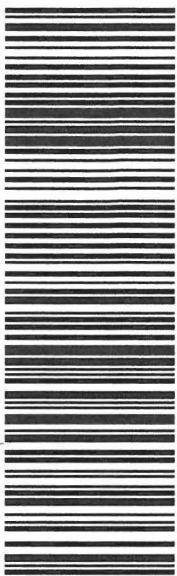

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