



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
OF THE FIRST 10-YEAR INTERVAL INSERVICE INSPECTION PROGRAM PLAN

REQUESTS FOR RELIEF REGRADING

INTEGRALLY-WELDED ATTACHMENTS

FOR

ENERGY OPERATIONS, INC.

RIVER BEND STATION, UNIT 1

DOCKET NO. 50-458

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Technical Specifications for River Bend Station, Unit 1 state that the inservice inspection of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Code Class 1, 2, and 3 components shall be performed in accordance with Section XI of the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code and applicable Addenda as required by 10 CFR 50.55a(g), except where specific written relief has been granted by the Commission pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(6)(i). 10 CFR 50.55a(a)(3) states that alternatives to the requirements of paragraph (g) may be used, when authorized by the NRC, if (i) the proposed alternatives would provide an acceptable level of quality and safety or (ii) compliance with the specified requirements would result in hardship or unusual difficulties without a compensating increase in the level of quality and safety.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(4), ASME Code Class 1, 2, and 3 components (including supports) shall meet the requirements, except the design and access provisions and the preservice examination requirements, set forth in the ASME Code, Section XI, "Rules for Inservice Inspection of Nuclear Power Plant Components," to the extent practical within the limitations of design, geometry, and materials of construction of the components. The regulations require that inservice examination of components and system pressure tests conducted during the first 10-year interval and subsequent intervals comply with the requirements in the latest edition and addenda of Section XI of the ASME Code incorporated by reference in 10 CFR 50.55a(b) 12 months prior to the start of the 120-month interval, subject to the limitations and modifications listed therein. The applicable edition of Section XI of the ASME Code for the River Bend Station, Unit 1 first 10-year inservice inspection (ISI) interval is the 1980 Edition through Winter 1981 Addenda. The components (including supports) may meet the requirements set forth in subsequent editions and addenda of the ASME Code incorporated by reference in 10 CFR 50.55a(b) subject to the limitations and modifications listed therein and subject to Commission approval.

ENCLOSURE 1

Pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(5), if the licensee determines that conformance with an examination requirement of Section XI of the ASME Code is not practical for its facility, information shall be submitted to the Commission in support of that determination and a request made for relief from the ASME Code requirement. After evaluation of the determination, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(6)(i), the Commission may grant relief and may impose alternative requirements that are determined to be authorized by law, will not endanger life, property, or the common defense and security, and are otherwise in the public interest, giving due consideration to the burden upon the licensee that could result if the requirements were imposed. In a letter dated September 25, 1995, Entergy Operations Inc., submitted to the NRC its first 10-year interval inservice inspection program plan, requests for relief regarding integrally-welded attachments for River Bend Station, Unit 1. Additional information was provided by the licensee in its letter dated December 14, 1995.

2.0 EVALUATION AND CONCLUSIONS

The staff, with technical assistance from its contractor, the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory (INEL), has evaluated the information provided by the licensee in support of its first 10-year interval inservice inspection program plan, request for relief regarding integrally-welded attachments for River Bend Station, Unit 1.

Based on the information submitted, the staff adopts the contractor's conclusions and recommendations presented in the Technical Letter Report. The staff concludes that the licensee's proposed alternative to use Code Case N-509 *Alternate Rules for the Selection and Examination of Class 1, 2, and 3 Integrally Welded Attachments, Section XI, Division 1* and commitment to schedule a minimum of 10% of all integral attachments in non-exempt Code Class 1, 2, and 3 systems will provide an acceptable level of quality and safety. Therefore, the licensee's proposed alternative to use Code Case N-509 is authorized, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(3)(i) as requested. In addition, the staff concludes that relief from the completion percentage requirements of Section XI, Paragraphs IWB/C-2412-1 is not required due to current scheduling in conjunction with authorization to use Code Case N-509.

Principal Contributor: T. McLellan

Date: January 16, 1996