

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONNORTHEAST NUCLEAR ENERGY COMPANYDOCKET NO. 50-336NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OFNO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering granting relief from certain requirements of the ASME Code, Section XI, "Rules for Inservice Inspection of Nuclear Power Plant Components," to Northeast Nuclear Energy Company, which would revise the inservice volumetric examination of Reactor Coolant Pump Casing Welds for the Millstone Nuclear Power Station, Unit No. 2, located at the licensee's site in the Town of Waterford, Connecticut. The ASME Code requirements are incorporated by reference into the Commission's Rules and Regulations in 10 CFR Part 50.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTIdentification of Proposed Action:

By letter of May 4, 1984 the Northeast Nuclear Energy Company (NNECo) proposed an updated relief request for the volumetric inservice examination of the Millstone Unit No. 2 reactor coolant pump (RCP) casing welds because of problems encountered in complying with Section XI of the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code.

The licensee also proposed alternative examination requirements to provide for the assurance of structural reliability of the pump casing welds. The licensee's proposals are:

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Code Relief Request

Pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55(a)(g)(5)(iii), relief is requested from performing the volumetric examination of the pump casing welds and visual examination of the internal pressure boundary surfaces in the pump casing.

Proposed Alternative Examination

It is proposed that a surface examination of the accessible RCP casing welds on one pump be done at the end of the first inspection interval. Additionally a visual examination of the accessible internal pressure boundary will be done when the pump is disassembled for maintenance.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

Volumetric examination of the RCP casing welds or visual examination of the internal casing surfaces requires complete disassembly and draining of the reactor coolant pump. The unnecessary personnel exposure and cost that would result from the limited exam which could be performed do not warrant pump disassembly solely for examination purposes.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

Our evaluation of the proposed request for relief from the ASME Code requirements which are considered impractical and the implementation of the alternative examination indicates that these actions will give reasonable assurance that the acceptable level of quality and safety intended by the ASME Code will be satisfied.

Accordingly, post-accident radiological releases will not be greater than previously determined nor does the proposed relief otherwise affect radiological plant effluents, and there is no significant increase in occupational exposures. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological

environmental impacts associated with this proposed relief.

With regard to potential non-radiological impacts, the proposed relief involves equipment located entirely within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. It does not affect non-radiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant non-radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed relief.

Alternative to the Proposed Action:

Since we have concluded that there is no measurable environmental impact associated with the proposed relief from the requirements of the ASME Code and imposition of an alternative examination, any alternatives to this actions will have either no environmental impact or greater environmental impact.

The principal alternative would be to deny the requested relief. This would not reduce the environmental impacts of plant operation and would result in unnecessary personnel exposure and cost to completely disassemble and drain the reactor coolant pump.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action does not involve the use of resources not previously considered in connection with the "Final Environmental Statement Relating to Operation of Millstone Unit 2.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

The NRC staff reviewed the licensee's request and did not consult other agencies or persons.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

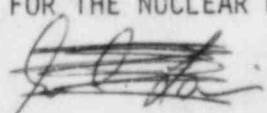
The Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed relief.

Based upon the foregoing environmental assessment, we conclude that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

For further details with respect to this action, see the application for relief dated May 4, 1984, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., and at the Waterford Public Library, Waterford, Connecticut.

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland this

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION


Gus C. Lainas, Acting Director
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