

MS 016

August 31, 1984

Docket Nos. 5C-338
and 50-339

DISTRIBUTION:

- ~~Docket File~~
- NRC PDR
- Local PDR
- ORB#3 Rdg
- DEisenhut
- LBEngle
- PMKreutzer
- EJordan
- JNGrace
- ACRS (10)
- OPA, CMiles
- Gray File

Mr. W. L. Stewart
Vice President - Nuclear Operations
Virginia Electric and Power Company
Post Office Box 26666
Richmond, Virginia 23261

Dear Mr. Stewart:

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR RELIEF FROM ASME XI VOLUMETRIC EXAMINATION ON
ACCUMULATOR AND BORON INJECTION TANKS - NORTH ANNA, UNITS
1 AND 2

By letters dated February 13 and 21, 1984, you requested relief from the examination requirements required by ASME XI for full volumetric examinations on the accumulator tank welds 2 and 3 and the boron injection tank welds 1 and 2.

The 1974 Edition of Section XI Code requires a volumetric examination of pressure retaining welds in vessels to be performed during each inspection interval and the examinations shall cover at least 10% of the length of each longitudinal shell weld and 5% of the length of each circumferential shell weld. The examination shall include the weld and base metal for one plate thickness beyond the edge of the weld. In your request for relief you state the examination requirement to be impractical to perform based on the following:

1. geometric configuration of the welded joints prevents examination from both sides of welds,
2. welds not prepared for ultrasonic examination, and
3. personnel exposure to relatively high radiation levels.

Therefore, you proposed to examine the welds from one side only and to perform a visual examination of the welds.

In our review of your subject relief request we have discussed this matter with the Region II inspector who observed your attempts to volumetrically examine the welds. It is noted that the examinations could have been performed if a calibration block for the thicker sections of the vessel had been available. However, you have chosen to request relief from the examination requirements rather than fabricate a calibration block and perform the Code required examinations.

8409260401 840831
PDR ADCK 05000338
P PDR

Mr. W. L. Stewart

- 2 -

We find your determination that the requirements are impractical to perform are not acceptable and the information supporting the request insufficient to warrant granting relief from the requirements.

However, taking into consideration the partial examinations performed and the present unavailability of a calibration block, the staff concludes that some assurance of the vessel's structural integrity has been provided, and that relief from performing a complete volumetric examination of the welds for the NA-1&2 fourth and third refueling outages, respectively; is hereby granted until the next refueling outages for NA-1&2, at which time the Code required examinations must be performed.

Enclosed is a Notice of Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact relating to this action, which was published in the Federal Register on August 28, 1984 (49 FR 34113).

Sincerely,

~~Original signed by:~~

James R. Miller, Chief
Operating Reactors Branch #3
Division of Licensing

Enclosure:
Notice

cc: See next page

ORB#3:DL
PMKreutzer
8/15/84

BE
ORB#3:DL
LBEngle:dd
8/24/84

JRM
ORB#3:DL
JRM111er
8/ /84