

January 22, 1997

Mr. Percy M. Beard, Jr.
Senior Vice President, Nuclear Operations
Florida Power Corporation
ATTN: Manager, Nuclear Licensing (SA2A)
Crystal River Energy Complex
15760 W Power Line Street
Crystal River, Florida 34428-6708

SUBJECT: REQUEST TO USE CODE CASE N-524 AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO ASME CODE
SECTION XI FOR CRYSTAL RIVER NUCLEAR PLANT, UNIT 3 (TAC NO. M97369)

Dear Mr. Beard:

Regulatory Guide, 1.147, Inservice Inspection Code Case Acceptability ASME Section XI, Division 1, Revision 11 dated October 1994, lists those Section XI ASME Code Cases that are generally acceptable to the NRC staff for implementation in the inservice inspection of light-water-cooled nuclear power plants. Code Case N-524, "Alternative Examination Requirements for Longitudinal Welds in Class 1 and 2 Piping Section XI, Division 1," dated August 9, 1993, is not included in the NRC Regulatory Guide 1.147.

By letter dated November 25, 1996, you submitted Relief Request 96-001-II. Pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(a)(3), you requested approval for implementing the Code Case N-524 for certain surface and volumetric examination of longitudinal welds in Class 1 and Class 2 piping.

We have evaluated your relief request and determined that use of Code Case N-524 would provide an acceptable level of quality and safety and, therefore, is authorized pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(a)(3)(i) and is acceptable. Please be advised that use of Code Case N-524 is acceptable until such time as it may be included in a future revision of Regulatory Guide 1.147. At that time, you should follow any provisions and limitations that may be described in the Regulatory Guide 1.147 concerning the use of Code Case N-524.

Our evaluation and conclusions are contained in the attached safety evaluation. This completes our effort under Technical assignment Control (TAC) No. M97369 and the TAC is closed.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Frederick J. Hebdon, Director
Project Directorate II-3
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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Docket No. 50-302

Enclosure: Safety Evaluation
cc w/enclosure: See next page

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Mr. Percy M. Beard, Jr.
Florida Power Corporation

CRYSTAL RIVER UNIT NO. 3
GENERATING PLANT

cc:

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