



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

July 29, 1997

Mr. J. P. O'Hanlon  
Senior Vice President - Nuclear  
Virginia Electric and Power Company  
5000 Dominion Blvd.  
Glen Allen, Virginia 23060

SUBJECT: NORTH ANNA POWER STATION, UNIT 2 - ASME SECTION XI RELIEF REQUESTS  
NDE-33, 34, AND 35 - REACTOR COOLANT SYSTEM (TAC NO. M98276)

Dear Mr. O'Hanlon:

The NRC staff has evaluated the information provided in your January 28, 1997, submittal related to your inservice inspection program relief requests NDE-33, 34, and 35.

Based on the evaluation of relief request NDE-33, we conclude that the Code-required 100% volumetric examination of the reactor coolant pump-to-loop pipe circumferential welds 9 and 20 would have constituted an undue burden on Virginia Electric and Power Company (VEPCO) since the examination is not practical due to geometrical constraints imposed by the reactor coolant pump nozzle construction, and imposition of this requirement would require significant design modifications.

Based on the evaluation of relief request NDE-34, we conclude that the Code-required 100% volumetric and surface examination of the pipe-to-flange circumferential weld SW-13 would have constituted an undue burden on VEPCO since the examination is not practical due to geometrical constraints imposed by the piping support, and imposition of this requirement would require significant design modifications to the pipe and/or support.

Based on the evaluation of relief request NDE-35, we conclude that the Code-required 100% volumetric and surface examination of the reactor pressure vessel closure head-to-flange weld would have constituted an undue burden on VEPCO since the examination is not practical due to the proximity of the lifting lug, the configuration of the weld restricts access, and imposition of this requirement would require extensive design modifications.

Based on the impracticality of meeting the Code coverage requirements for the three welds detailed above, and the reasonable assurance provided by the surface and volumetric examinations that were completed, the relief is granted pursuant to the provisions of 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(6)(i). The granting of this relief is authorized by law and will not endanger life or property or the common defense and security and is otherwise in the public interest giving due consideration to the burden upon VEPCO that could result if the requirements were imposed on the facility. The staff's evaluation and conclusions are contained in the Enclosure.

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The staff has completed its evaluation of this matter and we are, therefore, closing out TAC No. M98276.

Sincerely,

(Original Signed By)

Gordon E. Edison, Acting Director  
Project Directorate II-1  
Division of Reactor Projects-I/II  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-339

Enclosure: As stated

cc w/encl: See next page

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