



50-440

UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

September 18, 1997

Mr. Lew W. Myers  
Vice President - Nuclear, Perry  
Centerior Service Company  
P.O. Box 97, A200  
Perry, OH 44081

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR ALTERNATIVE FROM AUGMENTED INSPECTION OF REACTOR  
PRESSURE VESSEL CIRCUMFERENTIAL WELDS IN PERRY NUCLEAR POWER  
PLANT, UNIT NO. 1 (TAC NO. M99474)

Dear Mr. Myers:

By letter dated August 28, 1997 (PY-CEI/NRR-2210L), and supplemented by letters dated September 4 (PY-CEI/NRR-2211L) and September 16, 1997 (PY-CEI/NRR-2219L), Centerior Energy requested NRC approval of an alternative reactor vessel weld examination pursuant to the provisions of 10 CFR 50.55a(a)(3)(i) and 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(6)(ii)(A)(5) for the Perry Nuclear Power Plant (PNPP) for the next two operating cycles. Centerior Energy has proposed inspection of essentially 100 percent of the longitudinal seam welds in the reactor pressure vessel (RPV) shell, which will result in partial examination of the circumferential welds at their points of intersection with the longitudinal welds.

These inspections were proposed as an alternative to the augmented examinations specified in 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(6)(ii)(A)(2) for circumferential welds, and as an alternative to the inservice inspection requirements for circumferential welds in the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Code, Section XI, 1983 edition through summer 1983 addenda, for circumferential welds.

In Information Notice 97-63, "Status of NRC Staff's Review of BWRVIP-05," the staff indicated that it would consider such requests, when technically justified, from BWR licensees who are scheduled to perform inspections of the Boiling Water Reactor (BWR) RPV circumferential welds during the fall 1997 or spring 1998 outage seasons. BWRVIP-05 provides BWR Owners Group recommendations for RPV shell weld inspections.

The NRC staff has reviewed your request and concluded that the PNPP RPV can be operated during the next two operating periods with an acceptable level of quality and safety, and the inspection of the circumferential welds can be delayed for two operating periods. Therefore, the proposed alternative is authorized pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(a)(3)(i).

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L. Myers

- 2 -

Further details regarding the staff's evaluation and conclusions are contained in the enclosed safety evaluation.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

Gail H. Marcus, Director  
Project Directorate III-3  
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-440

Enclosure: Safety Evaluation

cc w/encl: See next page

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\* See ESullivan to GMarcus memo dtd 9/5/97

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\* See ESullivan to GMarcus memo dtd 9/5/97

L. Myers  
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