



Omaha Public Power District
444 South 16th Street Mall
Omaha, Nebraska 68102-2247

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October 1, 1999
LIC-99-0094

The Honorable Greta J. Dicus
Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mail Stop O-16 C1
Washington, DC 20555-0001

DOCKET NUMBER
PROPOSED RULE **PR 50**
(64FR22580)

Reference: Docket No. 50-285

SUBJECT: 10 CFR 50.55a Supplemental Proposed Rule (64 Fed. Reg. 22580)

Dear Chairman Dicus:

The NRC should be complimented for the proposed rulemaking to eliminate the requirement for licensees to revise their inservice inspection (ISI) and testing (IST) programs beyond a baseline edition and addenda of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code. Reconsideration of this requirement is warranted because there is no substantial increase in safety commensurate with the cost of implementation.

I understand that ASME, individuals from the industry, and NRC staff involved in ASME activities have communicated views opposing the proposed rule. Nevertheless, rulemaking consistent with the provisions of the backfitting rule and a demonstrated threshold of safety improvement represents sound regulatory policy.

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In conclusion, I support the proposed rule to eliminate the 120-month update requirement in 10 CFR 50.55a, Codes and Standards.

Sincerely,

W. D. Gates

W. G. Gates
Vice President

c: The Honorable Nils J. Diaz, Commissioner, NRC
The Honorable, Edward McGaffigan Jr., Commissioner, NRC
The Honorable Jeffrey S. Merrifield, Commissioner NRC
Dr. William D. Travers, Executive Director for Operations, NRC
E. W. Merschoff, NRC Regional Administrator, Region IV
L. R. Wharton, NRC Project Manager
W. C. Walker, NRC Senior Resident Inspector
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