

FEB 06 2001



LRN-01-0045

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555

Gentlemen:

**INSERVICE INSPECTION PROGRAM
RELIEF REQUEST RR-B11
SALEM UNIT 1 GENERATING STATION
FACILITY OPERATING LICENSES DPR-70
DOCKET NOS. 50-272**

Pursuant to 10CFR50.55a(a)(3)(i), PSEG Nuclear requests relief to use for the UT examination of the Reactor Pressure Vessel (RPV) vessel-to-flange weld from the vessel shell side in lieu of Article 4 of Section V and the subsequent guideline requirements of Reg. Guide 1.150 Rev 1, and ASME Section XI, Div. 1, 1995 Edition, 1996 Addenda, Appendix VIII Supplement 4 and 6 as amended by the Federal Register Notice 64FR 51370 dated September 22, 1999. This relief request would be for the PSEG Nuclear Salem Unit 1, 10-year second interval vessel examination scheduled for the spring of 2001. The use of Supplements 4 and 6 for the completion of the vessel-to-flange weld from the shell side is expected to reduce examination time, which translates to significant cost.

The attachment to this letter includes the proposed alternative and supporting justification for the relief. Based on the evaluation contained in the attachment, PSEG Nuclear has concluded that the proposed alternative provides an acceptable level of quality and safety. Accordingly, this proposal satisfies the requirements of 10 CFR 50.55a(a)(3)(i).

PSE&G requests that the NRC approve this relief request by April 2001 in order to support the Salem Unit 1 outage currently scheduled to begin April 7, 2001.

Should you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Mr. Howard Berrick at 856-339-1862.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "G. Salamon", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.
G. Salamon
Manager – Licensing

Attachment: ISI Relief Request No. RR-B11

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**PSEG NUCLEAR LLC
SALEM GENERATING STATION
ISI RELIEF REQUEST RR-B11**

COMPONENT DESCRIPTION:

Salem Unit 1 Class 1, Category B-A Pressure Retaining Welds In Reactor Vessel Item No. B1.30 Shell-to-Flange Weld.

ASME CODE CLASS:

ASME Section XI Class 1

ASME EXAMINATION REQUIREMENTS

ASME Code, Section XI, Rules for Inservice Inspection of Nuclear Power Plant Components, 1983 Edition with Summer 1983 Addenda, IWA-2232 requires Ultrasonic examination of the RPV to flange weld be in accordance with Article 4 of Section V. In addition the NRC has issued Regulatory Guide 1.150 Rev 1 "Ultrasonic Testing Of Reactor Vessel Welds During Preservice and Inservice Examinations" as regulatory guidance for the UT examination of RPV welds.

RELIEF REQUESTED:

Pursuant to 10CFR50.55a(a)(3)(i), PSEG Nuclear requests relief to use for the UT examination of the RPV-to-flange weld from the vessel shell side in lieu of Article 4 of Section V and the subsequent guideline requirements of Reg. Guide 1.150 Rev 1., ASME Section XI, Div. 1, 1995 Edition, 1996 Addenda, Appendix VIII Supplement 4 and 6 as amended by the Federal Register Notice 64FR 51370 dated 9/22/99. This relief request would be for the Salem Unit One 10 year 2nd interval vessel examination scheduled for the spring of 2001.

BASIS FOR RELIEF:

PSEG Nuclear Salem Unit 1 is required to perform In-service examination of the RPV flange weld in accordance with the requirements of Article 4 of Section V and the subsequent guideline requirements of Regulatory Guide 1.150 Rev 1. An acceptable partial examination of the RPV vessel-to-flange weld was performed from the flange surface during the 2nd period of the second interval, satisfying the requirements of Article 4 of Section V and the Regulatory Guide 1.150 Rev 1.

This relief is requested to allow completion of the ultrasonic examination of the RPV vessel-to-flange weld from the vessel side of the weld, to be performed in accordance with Appendix VIII Supplements 4 and 6.

Federal Register Notice 64 FR 51400, dated September 22, 1999, revised the 1999 Edition of 10 CFR 50.55(a) Codes and Standards. This revision requires that Appendix VIII, Supplements 4 and 6 be implemented for most of the RPV welds by Nov 22, 2000. The RPV vessel-to-flange weld is not included in Appendix VIII.

During the 10 year RPV weld examinations we will be employing personnel, procedures and equipment, demonstrated and qualified by a Performance Demonstration Initiative (PDI) and in accordance with ASME Code, Section XI, Div.1, 1995 Edition, 1996

**PSEG NUCLEAR LLC
SALEM GENERATING STATION
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Addenda, Appendix VIII Supplements 4 & 6 as amended by the Federal Register Notice 64FR 51370 dated 9/22/99 for the adjacent welds. To use Article 4 of Section V for the Ultrasonic examination of the RPV to flange weld from the vessel shell is not cost effective. Additionally, it is not a PDI qualified procedure. The RPV circumferential and longitudinal welds Item No. B1.11 and B1.12 require examination in accordance with Supplement 4 and 6. This will require a different calibration, procedure and technique than that which would be required by Article 4 and the Regulatory Guide 1.150 Rev 1.

The use of Supplements 4 and 6 for the completion of the RPV vessel-to-flange weld from the shell side (which PDI has qualified) is expected to reduce examination time, which translates to significant cost savings and reduce personnel radiation exposure.

ALTERNATIVE EXAMINATIONS

- 1) Use personnel, procedure and equipment demonstrated and qualified by PDI and in accordance with ASME Code, Section XI, Div. 1, 1995 Edition, 1996 Addenda, Appendix VIII Supplement 4 and 6 as amended by the Federal Register Notice 64FR 51370 dated September 9, 1999.