

April 10, 2001

Mr. John H. Mueller
Chief Nuclear Officer
Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation
Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station
Operations Building, Second Floor
Lycoming, NY 13093

SUBJECT: NINE MILE POINT NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT NO. 2 - APPROVAL TO USE
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS (ASME) BOILER AND
PRESSURE VESSEL CODE CASE N-532 (TAC NO. MB0585)

Dear Mr. Mueller:

By letter dated December 15, 2000, Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (NMPC) submitted Relief Request RR-ISI-19, requesting NRC approval for Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station, Unit No. 2, to use ASME Code Case N-532, "Alternative Requirements to Repair and Replacement Documentation Requirements and Inservice Summary Report Preparation and Submission as Required by IWA-4000 and IWA-6000, Section XI, Division 1."

As delineated in the enclosed Safety Evaluation, the alternative regarding use of ASME Code Case N-532 provides an acceptable level of quality and safety. Therefore, NMPC's proposed alternative is authorized pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(a)(3)(i) for the second 10-year inservice inspection interval, or until such time Code Case N-532 is referenced in a future revision of Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.147 or 10 CFR 50.55a. At that time, if NMPC intends to continue to implement Code Case N-532, NMPC will need to follow all provisions in the subject code case with limitations (if any) referenced in either RG 1.147 or 10 CFR 50.55a.

This completes the staff's efforts on the referenced NMPC submittal. Please contact the project manager, Mr. Peter Tam, by telephone at (301) 415-1451 or by electronic mail (pst@nrc.gov) if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

/RA/M. Banerjee for

Marsha Gamberoni, Chief, Section 1
Project Directorate I
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-410

cc: See next page

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SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION

SECOND 10-YEAR INTERVAL INSERVICE INSPECTION

REQUEST FOR RELIEF RR-ISI-19

NINE MILE POINT, UNIT 2

DOCKET NUMBER 50-410

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Inservice inspection (ISI) of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code (ASME Code) Class 1, 2, and 3 components is to be performed in accordance with Section XI of the ASME Code and applicable addenda as required by 10 CFR 50.55a(g), except where specific written relief has been granted by the Commission pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(6)(i). 10 CFR 50.55a(a)(3) states that alternatives to the requirements of paragraph (g) may be used, when authorized by the NRC, if the licensee demonstrates that: (i) the proposed alternatives would provide an acceptable level of quality and safety, or (ii) compliance with the specified requirements would result in hardship or unusual difficulty without a compensating increase in the level of quality and safety.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(4), ASME Code Class 1, 2, and 3 components (including supports) shall meet the requirements, except the design and access provisions and the pre-service examination requirements, set forth in the ASME Code, Section XI, "Rules for Inservice Inspection (ISI) of Nuclear Power Plant Components," to the extent practical within the limitations of design, geometry, and materials of construction of the components. The regulations require that inservice examination of components and system pressure tests conducted during the first 10-year interval and subsequent intervals comply with the requirements in the latest edition and addenda of Section XI of the ASME Code incorporated by reference in 10 CFR 50.55a(b) twelve months prior to the start of the 120-month interval, subject to the limitations and modifications listed therein. The Code of record for Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station, Unit No. 2 (NMP2), second 10-year ISI interval is the 1989 Edition of the ASME Code.

By letter dated December 15, 2000, Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (NMPC) submitted Relief Request RR-ISI-19, requesting NRC approval for NMP2 to use American Society of Mechanical Engineers Code Case N-532, "Alternative Requirements to Repair and Replacement Documentation Requirements and Inservice Summary Report Preparation and Submission as Required by IWA-4000 and IWA-6000, Section XI, Division 1." The NRC staff's evaluation follows.

2.0 EVALUATION

Code Requirement

Article IWA-6000 requires the Owner to prepare and submit the Owners Report for Inservice Inspection, Form NIS-1, and the Owners Report for Repair or Replacements, Form NIS-2.

Enclosure

Article Identifications:

| | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| Article IWA-4000 | Repair Procedures |
| Article IWA-6000 | Records and Reports |
| Article IWA-7000 | Replacement |

Article Requirements:

| | |
|----------------|---|
| IWA-4800 | The records required by IWA-6000 shall be completed for all repairs. |
| IWA-7520(a)(8) | Completed Owner's Report for Repairs or Replacements, Form NIS-2. |
| IWA-6210(c) | The Owner shall prepare inservice inspection summary reports for Class 1 and 2 pressure retaining components and their supports. |
| IWA-6220(c) | Inservice Inspection (ISI) summary reports shall be required at the completion of each inspection conducted during refueling outage. Examinations, tests, replacements, and repairs conducted since the preceding summary report shall be included. |
| IWA-6220(d) | Each summary report shall contain the following: (2) Owner's Report for Inservice Inspection, Form NIS-1. (3) Owner's Report for Repair or Replacement, Form NIS-2. |
| IWA-6230 | Within 90 days of the completion of the inservice inspection conducted during each refueling outage, the Owner shall file ISI Summary Reports with the enforcement and regulatory authorities. |

Licensee's Request for Relief:

In its submittal, the licensee stated:

Pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(a)(3)(i), Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (NMPC) requests Relief from the following:

1. Preparation of the Owner's Report for Inservice Inspection, Form NIS-1.
2. Preparation of the Owner's Report for Repair or Replacement, Form NIS-2.
3. Submittal of the summary report within 90 days following completion of the inservice inspection conducted during each refueling outage.

Licensee's Proposed Alternative:

The licensee proposes to implement the alternative requirements outlined in ASME Code Case N-532, in lieu of those specified in Article IWA-6000, 1989 Edition.

The licensee stated:

As an alternate to the requirements of IWA-4000, IWA-6000, and IWA-7000, NMPC will implement ASME Code Case N-532, "Alternative Requirements to Repair and Replacement Documentation Requirements and Inservice Summary Report Preparation and Submission as Required by IWA-4000 and IWA-6000¹, Division 1 (Note: 1 - ASME 1992 Edition Section XI)."

Licensee's Basis for Proposed Alternative (cited verbatim from submittal):

It is NMPC's conclusion that the summary report required by IWA-6000 does not contain the information necessary to assure compliance with Code requirements, and therefore does not provide a compensating increase in the quality and/or safety at Nine Mile Point, Unit 2.

The summary report does not furnish evidence of compliance with the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code, Section XI, Inspection Program B, percentage requirements as mandated by IWB-2412, IWC-2412, and IWD-2412.

Class 3 components are excluded from the summary report submittal.

Both a final report and summary report must be prepared, reviewed and approved in order to comply with Subarticles IWA-6220 and IWA-6310, respectively.

The preparation, review, approval and certification of each record and report, within the time frame of 90 days following completion of each refueling outage, increases substantially the costs associated with inservice inspection activities, and puts an unreasonable time constraint on NMPC without an increase in assurance of Code compliance.

Code Case N-532, "Alternative Requirements to Repair and Replacement Documentation Requirements and Inservice Summary Report Preparation and Submission as Required by IWA-4000 and IWA-6000, Section XI Division 1", has not been published in Regulatory Guide 1.147, dated May 1999 "Inservice Inspection Code Case Acceptability, ASME Section XI, Division 1"; however, the USNRC staff has approved it's [sic] use at other nuclear stations.

The information provided in the documentation pertaining to the use of Code Case N-532 can be used in the same manner to assess the safety implications of Code activities performed during the outage. A review using the information as prescribed by the Code Case will, therefore, provide the same or improved level of quality and safety as reviews that may be conducted using the Code reporting requirements.

NRC Staff Evaluation:

The NRC staff reviewed the proposed alternative documentation requirements of Code Case N-532 and determined that although the required forms have changed, the information required

by the Code remains available for review. Code Case N-532 requires preparation of the Repair/Replacement Certification Record, Form NIS-2A. The code case requires the completed Form NIS-2A be certified by an Authorized Nuclear Inservice Inspector (ANII) as defined in ASME Code, Section XI, IWA-2130 and be maintained by the Owner. Furthermore, the Owner's Activity Report Form, OAR-1 would be prepared and certified by an ANII upon completion of each refueling outage. The OAR-1 form would contain an abstract of applicable examinations and tests, a list of item(s) with flaws or relevant conditions that require evaluation to determine acceptability for continued service, and an abstract of repairs, replacements and corrective measures performed as a result of unacceptable flaws or relevant conditions. Hence, the information provided in the documentation required by Code Case N-532 can be used to assess the safety implications of Code activities performed during an outage.

A review using the information as prescribed by the code case will, therefore, provide the same or higher level of quality and safety as reviews that may be conducted using the Code reporting requirements. In addition, more detailed information pertaining to a specific concern may be identified and requested by the staff if it is deemed necessary. Therefore, the licensee's proposed alternative is authorized pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(a)(3)(i) for the second 10-year inspection interval, or until such time Code Case N-532 is referenced in a future revision of Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.147 or 10 CFR 50.55a. At that time, if the licensee intends to continue to implement Code Case N-532, the licensee shall follow all provisions in the subject code case with limitations (if any) referenced in either RG 1.147 or 10 CFR 50.55a.

3.0 CONCLUSION

As delineated above, the alternative contained in the licensee's Request for Relief ISI-19 provides an acceptable level of quality and safety. Therefore, the licensee's proposed alternative is authorized pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(a)(3)(i) for the second 10-year inservice inspection interval, or until such time Code Case N-532 is referenced in a future revision of RG 1.147 or 10 CFR 50.55a. At that time, if the licensee intends to continue to implement Code Case N-532, the licensee will need to follow all provisions in the subject code case with limitations (if any) referenced in either RG 1.147 or 10 CFR 50.55a.

Principal Contributor: T. McLellan

Date: April 10, 2001

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