

July 30, 2003

Mr. Joseph M. Solymossy
Site Vice President
Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant
Nuclear Management Company, LLC
1717 Wakonade Drive East
Welch, MN 55089

SUBJECT: PRAIRIE ISLAND NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2 -
EVALUATION OF RELIEF REQUEST NO. 18 TO PERFORM A VISUAL
EXAMINATION IN LIEU OF VOLUMETRIC EXAMINATION OF REACTOR
VESSEL NOZZLE INNER RADIUS SECTIONS PER CODE CASE N-648-1 (TAC
NOS. MB8363 AND MB8364)

Dear Mr. Solymossy:

By letter dated April 3, 2003, the Nuclear Management Company, LLC (NMC), submitted Relief Request No. 18 (RR-18) for the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant, Units 1 and 2, during the third 10-year inservice inspection (ISI) interval. In RR-18, NMC requested relief to perform a visual examination in lieu of the volumetric examination of reactor vessel nozzle inner radius sections per American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) *Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code* (Code) Case N-648-1, "Alternative Requirements for Inner Radius Examinations of Class 1 Reactor Vessel Nozzles."

At the time of your submittal, Code Case N-648-1 was not listed in the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.147, "Inservice Inspection Code Case Acceptability, ASME Section XI, Division 1."

In June 2003, the NRC revised RG 1.147 to include Code Case N-648-1 in Table 2. Revision 13 of RG 1.147 is located under ADAMS Accession No. ML030730423 dated June 30, 2003. Code Case N-648-1 is acceptable to the NRC for application in your Section XI ISI program within the limitations imposed by the NRC staff. The following is the limitation for Code Case N-648-1 imposed by the NRC staff:

In place of a [ultrasonic thickness] UT examination, licensees may perform a visual examination with enhanced magnification that has a resolution sensitivity to detect 1-mil width wire or crack, utilizing the allowable flaw length criteria of Table IWB-3512-1 with limiting assumptions on the flaw aspect ratio. The provisions of Table IWB-2500-1, Examination Category B-D, continue to apply except that, in place of examination volumes, the surfaces to be examined are the external surfaces shown in the figures applicable to this table.

J. Solymossy

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Since Code Case N-648-1 is included in RG 1.147 and is acceptable to the NRC staff for application in your ISI program, RR-18 is no longer needed. Therefore, this completes our review of RR-18 under TAC Nos. MB8363 and MB8364.

If you have questions or comments, you can contact me at 301-415-1446.

Sincerely,

/RA/

John G. Lamb, Project Manager, Section 1
Project Directorate III
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-282 and 50-306

cc: See next page

J. Solymossy

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| NAME | JLamb | MO'Brien for RBouling | LRaghavan |
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Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant,
Units 1 and 2

cc:

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May 2003