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AUTH.NAME AUTHOR AFFILIATION
TUCKMAN,M.S. Duke Power Co.
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SUBJECT: Submits response to NRC 990916 telcon RAI re 98-GO-0005,
request for relief from requirements of ASME Boiler &
Pressure Vessel Code,Section XI.

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M. S. Tuckman
Executive Vice President
Nuclear Generation

Duke Power Company
A Duke Energy Company

EC07H
526 South Church Street
P.O. Box 1006
Charlotte, NC 28201-1006

(704) 382-2200 OFFICE
(704) 382-4360 FAX

September 29, 1999

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

ATTENTION: Document Control Desk

SUBJECT: Duke Energy Corporation

Oconee Nuclear Station - Units 1, 2, & 3
Docket Nos. 50-269, 50-270, and 50-287

McGuire Nuclear Station - Units 1 & 2
Docket Nos. 50-369 and 50-370

Catawba Nuclear Station - Units 1 & 2
Docket Nos. 50-413 and 50-414

Request for Relief from the Requirements of the
ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code, Section XI
Duke Energy Corporation Serial Number 98-GO-0005
Response to NRC Request for Additional Information

By letters dated September 29, 1998 and April 26, 1999, Duke Energy Corporation submitted Request for Relief 98-GO-0005. In a telephone conference call held on September 16, 1999, the NRC requested Duke to provide additional information on 98-GO-005. In response to this NRC request, the information listed below is provided.

1. Refracted longitudinal wave search units were demonstrated to the Authorized Nuclear Inservice Inspector on dissimilar metal weld mock-ups in January 1997 during the preservice examinations of the replacement steam generator nozzle-to-safe end welds at McGuire Nuclear Station. The procedure used for examination of dissimilar metal welds is based on ASME Section XI, Appendix III, 1989 Edition with no addenda.

AO471/1

9910120028 990929
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U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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2. In the case of dissimilar metal welds, credit is not taken for single sided coverage. The rules of ASME Section XI, Appendix III, III-4420 are used.
3. Measuring the beam angle in the examination part is not practical when using refracted longitudinal wave search units. However, knowing the beam angle is essential in determining examination volume coverage. The proposed alternative will improve the quality of the examinations by providing a practical method for measuring the beam angle of these search units.
4. As requested by the NRC, dissimilar metal weld configurations are included as the attachment to this letter.
5. This request for relief should have been submitted pursuant to 10CFR50.55a(g)(5)(iii) instead of 10CFR50.55a(a)(3)(iii) as improperly stated in the Duke letter to the NRC dated April 26, 1999.

Questions regarding this matter should be directed to J. S. Warren at (704) 382-4986.

Very truly yours,



M. S. Tuckman

MST/JSW

Attachments

U. S., Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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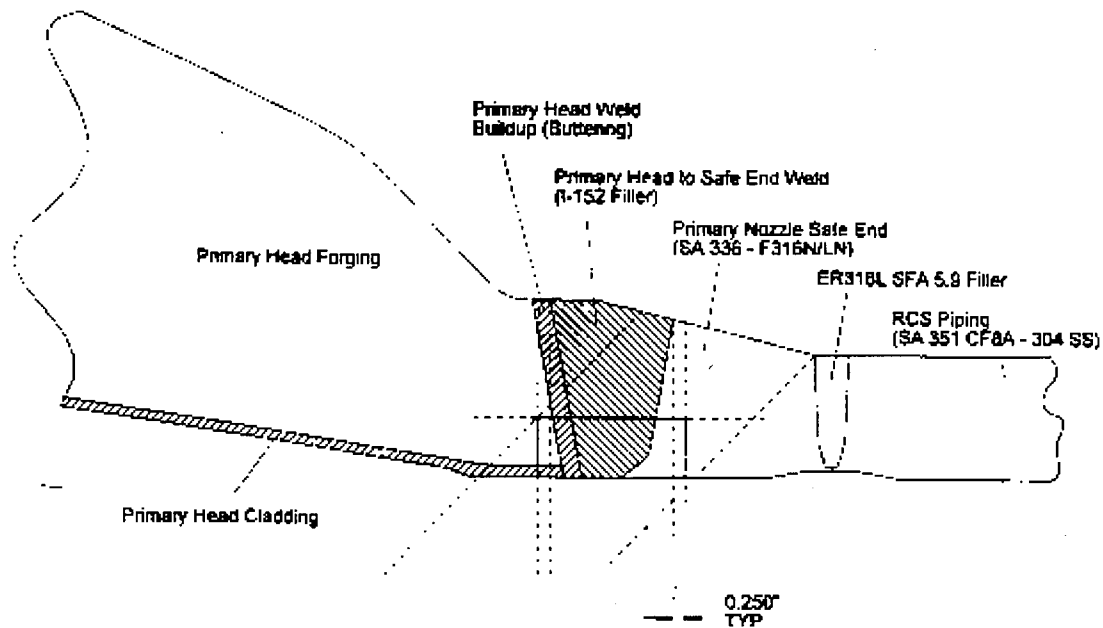
xc w/att: L. A. Reyes, Regional Administrator
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Region II
Atlanta Federal Center
61 Forsyth St., SWW, Suite 23T85
Atlanta, GA 30303

D. E. Labarge, NRC Project Manager (ONS)
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mail Stop O-8 H12
Washington, DC 20555-0001

F. Rinaldi, NRC Project Manager (MNS)
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mail Stop O-8 H12
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P. S. Tam, NRC Project Manager (CNS)
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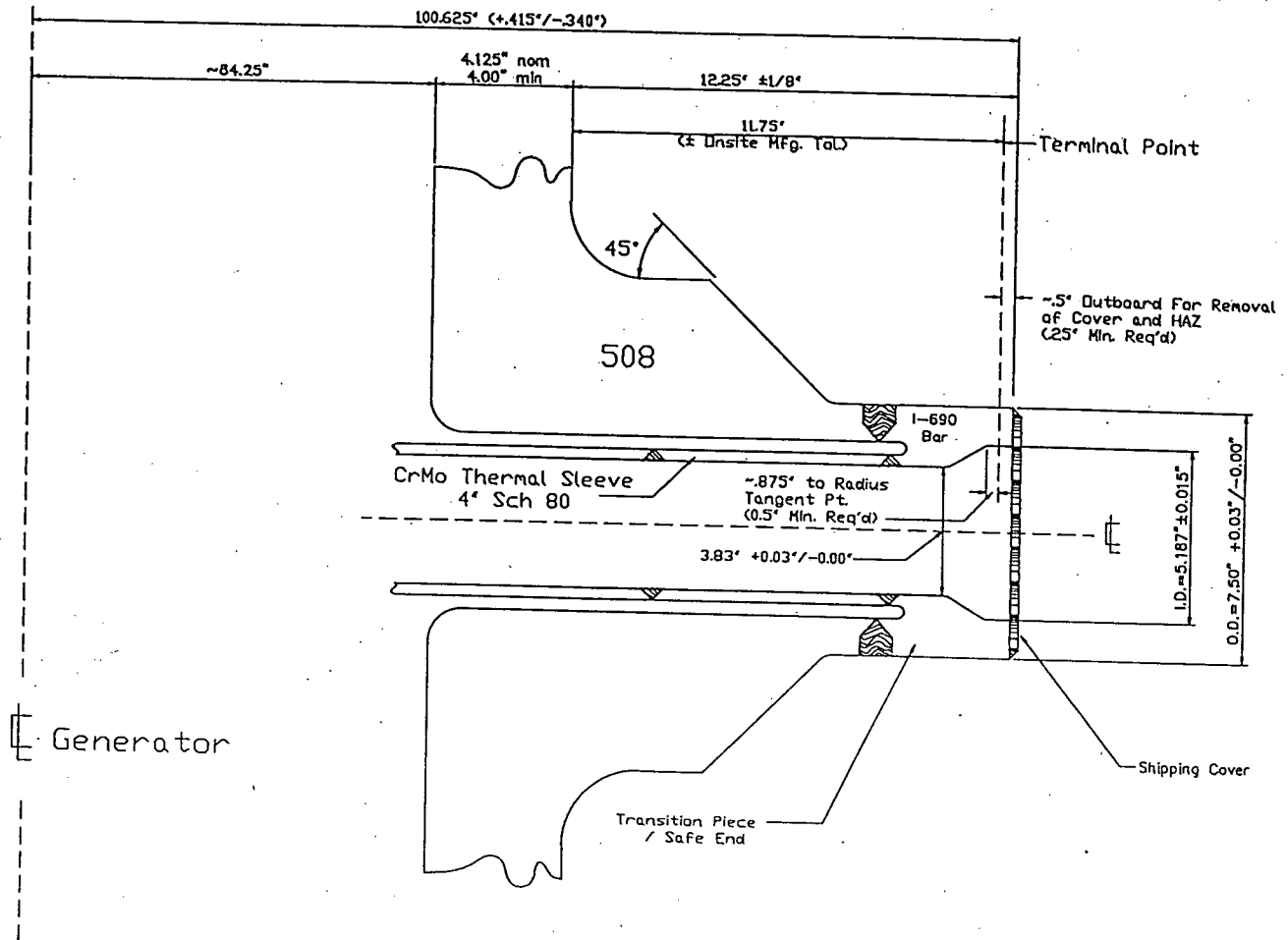
D. E. Billings, NRC Resident Inspector (ONS)
S. M. Shaeffer, NRC Senior Resident Inspector (MNS)
D. J. Roberts, NRC Senior Resident Inspector (CNS)



Axial scan from safe end side only

EXAMINATION VOLUME FOR STEAM GENERATOR NOZZLE-TO-SAFE END WELDS

AUXILIARY FEEDWATER NOZZLE SHIPPING CONFIGURATION



(Drawing CA-1)

Date: 6/13/94