



South Texas Project Electric Generating Station P.O. Box 289 Wadsworth, Texas 77483

June 25, 2015
NOC-AE-15003268
10 CFR 50.55a
File No. G25

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attention: Document Control Deskk
Washington, DC 20555-0001

South Texas Project Unit 1
Docket No. STN 50-498
Request for Relief from Code Case N-770-1, Subsection 2400 and Table 1 Inspection
Frequency of Reactor Vessel Cold Leg Nozzle to Safe-end
Welds with Flaw Analysis Supplement
(Relief Request RR-ENG-3-17)

- References:
1. Letter from Michael Berg, STPNOC, to NRC Document Control Desk, "Request for Relief from Code Case N-770-1, Subsection 2400 and Table 1 Inspection Frequency of Reactor Vessel Cold Leg Nozzle to Safe-end Welds with Flaw Analysis", April 24, 2015. (NOC-AE-15003250) (ML15133A130)
 2. Email from Lisa Regner, NRC to Lance Sterling, STPNOC, "DRAFT SouthTexas-1 RAI N-770-1 RPV Cold Leg Nozzles (MF6174)," dated June 18, 2015. (ML15170A066)

In accordance with the provisions of 10 CFR 50.55a(a)(3)(ii), STP Nuclear Operating Company (STPNOC) requested relief for South Texas Project (STP) Unit 1 for performing the reactor vessel Cold Leg nozzle to safe-end weld inspections in Reference 1. Subsequently, in Reference 2, the NRC provided feedback to STPNOC related to the need of enhancing the original submittal with additional clarification information. The intent of the letter is to provide a Supplement to the original Relief Request (Reference 1) to address the additional clarifications.

This letter contains one enclosure that is considered non-proprietary. There are no commitments in this letter.

A047
NRC

STI: 34150859

If there are any questions regarding this Relief Request, please contact Rafael Gonzales at 361-972-4779, or me at 361-972-7030.

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rjg

Enclosure:

Supplement Response Related to the Request for Relief from Code Case N-770-1, Subsection 2400 and Table 1 Inspection Frequency of Reactor Vessel Cold Leg Nozzle to Safe-end Welds with Flaw Analysis

cc:

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Enclosure

**Supplement Response Related to the Request for Relief from Code Case N-770-1,
Subsection 2400 and Table 1 Inspection Frequency of Reactor Vessel Cold Leg Nozzle to
Safe-end Welds with Flaw Analysis**

Background

By letter dated April 24, 2015 (ADAMS Number ML15133A130), STP Nuclear Operating Company (the licensee) requested relief from requirements of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code (B&PV Code) for the volumetric examination of the reactor pressure vessel (RPV) cold leg nozzle dissimilar metal (DM) butt welds at the South Texas Project (South Texas), Unit 1.

To complete its review, the NRC staff requests the following additional information.

1. When did the licensee complete the ASME Code Case N-770-1 baseline examination of these welds, as required by 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(6)(ii)(F)(1) with conditions?
2. (a) Clarify that the proposed alternative is to defer the ASME Code Case N-770-1 required volumetric examination, as required by 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(6)(ii)(F) with conditions, from the fall 2015 refueling outage (1RE19) up to and including the spring 2017 refueling outage (1RE20). (b) Clarify that the discussions regarding non-welded stress improvement provided in the relief request and the information provided in Table 2, page 6 of Enclosure 1 of relief request, are for information only and not part of the licensee's proposed alternative.

NRC Issue

1. When did the licensee complete the ASME Code Case N-770-1 baseline examination of these welds, as required by 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(6)(ii)(F)(1) with conditions?

STPNOC Response

The ASME Code Case N-770-1 baseline examination of these welds, as required by 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(6)(ii)(F)(1), were performed in Unit 1 during the Fall of 2009.

NRC Issue

2. (a) Clarify that the proposed alternative is to defer the ASME Code Case N-770-1 required volumetric examination, as required by 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(6)(ii)(F) with conditions, from the fall 2015 refueling outage (1RE19) up to and including the spring 2017 refueling outage (1RE20). (b) Clarify that the discussions regarding non-welded stress improvement provided in the relief request and the information provided in Table 2, page 6 of Enclosure 1 of relief request, are for information only and not part of the licensee's proposed alternative.

STPNOC Response

- (a) The proposed alternative is to defer the ASME Code Case N-770-1 required volumetric examination, as required by 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(6)(ii)(F) with conditions, from the fall 2015 refueling outage (1RE19) up to and including the spring 2017 refueling outage (1RE20). Essentially, this Relief Request (Reference 1) submittal is a nominal 18 month extension request, i.e. one operating cycle.
- (b) This information provided in Table 2, page 6 of Enclosure 1 of the Relief Request (Reference 1 of the Supplement), is provided for information only and is not a part of STPNOC's proposed alternative.