

Washington Public Power Supply System

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Docket No. 50-508

June 1, 1983
G03-83-437

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Region V
Office of Inspection and Enforcement
1450 Maria Lane, Suite 260
Walnut Creek, California 94596-5368

Attention: Mr. D. M. Sternberg, Chief
Reactor Projects Branch No. 1

Subject: NRC INSPECTION AT WNP-3
ITEM OF NONCOMPLIANCE 50-508/82-16/02
PRESSURE TESTING OF ELECTRICAL PENETRATIONS

- References:
- 1) NRC Letter, Docket No. 50-508, Mr. D. M. Sternberg to Mr. R. S. Leddick, dated December 27, 1982.
 - 2) Letter, G03-82-1199, Docket No. 50-508, Mr. R. S. Leddick to Mr. D. M. Sternberg, NRC Inspection at WNP-3, IE Report No. 50-508/82-16, dated November 24, 1982.

Reference 1) requested additional information regarding the Supply System's response (contained in Reference 2) to the subject noncompliance. Specifically, three NRC interpretations of the Supply System's response to the noncompliance were identified. These interpretations and the requested Supply System clarification are as follows:

1) NRC Interpretation

"It is our (NRC) understanding that you are requesting a code case or a code addenda which will allow full penetration welds in lieu of double butt welds..."

Supply System Clarification

Your understanding is correct. The Supply System is pursuing approval of a later ASME Code Addenda and directing the actions

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required to assure implementation. On April 13, 1983, the Supply System formally directed Ebasco to implement the examination requirements of Subparagraph NE-5250 of the Winter 1982 Addenda. This will be accomplished by the Significant PCP process which will revise Contract Specification 3240-224 to replace the previous requirements in NE-5211 of the Summer 1978 Addenda.

Subparagraph NE-5250 of the Winter 1982 Addenda of ASME, Section III specifies a full penetration weld, replacing the term "double butt weld" in NE-5211.2 of the Summer 1978 Addenda. Therefore, the full penetration weld between the penetration bulkhead extension assembly and the containment nozzle is no longer a code question.

2) NRC Interpretation

"It is our (NRC) understanding that you are requesting a code case or a code addenda which will allow...gas medium testing of joints subsequent to rendering them inaccessible."

Supply System Clarification

Your understanding is incorrect. A code case or later addenda is not required to allow gas medium testing of joints subsequent to rendering them inaccessible. It has been determined that even though the penetration closure welds are inaccessible for leakage examination from the outside of the containment boundary during the system pressure test, they will be accessible prior to closure of the vessel for the system pressure test. Therefore, volumetric and surface examination of the welds, as well as vacuum box leak testing, can be performed prior to their becoming inaccessible.

3) NRC Interpretation

"It is also our (NRC) understanding that you will assure that a vacuum box test with air falls within the ASME definition of 'a gas medium test, such as a Halide Leak Detection Test'."

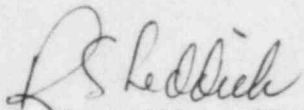
Supply System Clarification

Your understanding is correct. The Supply System has determined that a vacuum box test with air falls within the code definition of gas medium testing. Subparagraph NE-5250 of the Winter 1982 Addenda of ASME Section III specifies vacuum box testing as one of the gas medium test methods for leak tightness examination.

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Should you have any questions or desire further information, please contact me directly.



R. S. Leddick (760)
Program Director, WNP-3

DRC:nj

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