



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

AA83-1
PDR

SEP 4 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR: Guy A. Arlotto, Director
Division of Engineering Technology
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

FROM: Edward L. Jordan, Director
Division of Emergency Preparedness
and Engineering Response
Office of Inspection and Enforcement

SUBJECT: PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO 10 CFR 50.55a

As requested by Mr. Shao's memorandum dated August 13, 1984, we have reviewed the proposed amendments and have the following comments:

1. We have no objection to endorsement of the listed Edition and Addenda to Division 1 of Section III of the ASME Code.
2. We have no objection to endorsement of the Winter 1982 Addenda, 1983 Edition, and Summer 1983 Addenda to Division 1 of Section XI of the ASME Code. (The Summer 1983 Addenda contained no material relevant to Division 1.)
3. We concur that the Winter 1983 Addenda to Section XI should be endorsed only if exception is taken to Article IWB-3640. Significant technical questions have been raised within the NRC staff and also by other sources on the appropriateness and usefulness of that article.
4. As an alternative to item 3, we recommend deferral of NRC action on the endorsement of the Winter 1983 Addenda of Division 1 of Section XI. The Summer 1984 Addenda to Section XI did not modify Division 1 and, therefore, is not relevant to this action.

The ASME Code Section XI Subcommittee has recognized the sincerity and validity of the concerns which have been expressed with regard to Article IWB-3640, and is actively engaged in development of resolutions. The Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), and the NRC staff through the Offices of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, Research, and Inspection and Enforcement are actively participating in this effort as are many individual representatives from industry and academia. IE representatives are optimistic about a near future resolution of the concerns. Appropriate administrative action with respect to the current format of IWB-3640 can await resolution of the technical questions.

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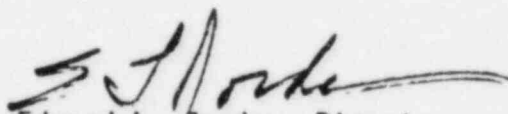
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Other revisions to Section XI incorporated in the Winter 1983 Addenda will become effective for operating plants or for NTOL plants sufficiently far in the future that this recommended deferral of action should create no burdens for the staff or for licensees.

Minor editorial comments have been communicated to your task leader orally.

We have discussed this recommendation with NRR (R. J. Bosnak and B. D. Liaw) and they concur with this approach.


Edward L. Jordan, Director
Division of Emergency Preparedness
and Engineering Response, IE

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