

January 22, 1997

Mr. Percy M. Beard, Jr.  
Senior Vice President, Nuclear Operations  
Florida Power Corporation  
ATTN: Manager, Nuclear Licensing (SA2A)  
Crystal River Energy Complex  
15760 W Power Line Street  
Crystal River, Florida 34428-6708

SUBJECT: REQUEST TO USE CODE CASE N-524 AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO ASME CODE  
SECTION XI FOR CRYSTAL RIVER NUCLEAR PLANT, UNIT 3 (TAC NO. M97369)

Dear Mr. Beard:

Regulatory Guide, 1.147, Inservice Inspection Code Case Acceptability ASME Section XI, Division 1, Revision 11 dated October 1994, lists those Section XI ASME Code Cases that are generally acceptable to the NRC staff for implementation in the inservice inspection of light-water-cooled nuclear power plants. Code Case N-524, "Alternative Examination Requirements for Longitudinal Welds in Class 1 and 2 Piping Section XI, Division 1," dated August 9, 1993, is not included in the NRC Regulatory Guide 1.147.

By letter dated November 25, 1996, you submitted Relief Request 96-001-II. Pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(a)(3), you requested approval for implementing the Code Case N-524 for certain surface and volumetric examination of longitudinal welds in Class 1 and Class 2 piping.

We have evaluated your relief request and determined that use of Code Case N-524 would provide an acceptable level of quality and safety and, therefore, is authorized pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(a)(3)(i) and is acceptable. Please be advised that use of Code Case N-524 is acceptable until such time as it may be included in a future revision of Regulatory Guide 1.147. At that time, you should follow any provisions and limitations that may be described in the Regulatory Guide 1.147 concerning the use of Code Case N-524.

Our evaluation and conclusions are contained in the attached safety evaluation. This completes our effort under Technical assignment Control (TAC) No. M97369 and the TAC is closed.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Frederick J. Hebdon, Director  
Project Directorate II-3  
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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Docket No. 50-302

Enclosure: Safety Evaluation  
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Mr. Percy M. Beard, Jr.  
Florida Power Corporation

CRYSTAL RIVER UNIT NO. 3  
GENERATING PLANT

cc:

Mr. R. Alexander Glenn  
Corporate Counsel  
Florida Power Corporation  
MAC-A5A  
P.O. Box 14042  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33733-4042

Mr. Bruce J. Hickie, Director  
Nuclear Plant Operations (NA2C)  
Florida Power Corporation  
Crystal River Energy Complex  
15760 W. Power Line Street  
Crystal River, Florida 34428-6708

Mr. Robert B. Borsum  
B&W Nuclear Technologies  
1700 Rockville Pike, Suite 525  
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Mr. Bill Passetti  
Office of Radiation Control  
Department of Health and  
Rehabilitative Services  
1317 Winewood Blvd.  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0700

Attorney General  
Department of Legal Affairs  
The Capitol  
Tallahassee, Florida 32304

Mr. Joe Myers, Director  
Division of Emergency Preparedness  
Department of Community Affairs  
2740 Centerview Drive  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2100

Chairman  
Board of County Commissioners  
Citrus County  
110 North Apopka Avenue  
Iverness, Florida 34450-4245

Mr. Larry C. Kelley, Director  
Nuclear Operations Site Support  
(SA2A)  
Florida Power Corporation  
Crystal River Energy Complex  
15760 W. Power Line Street  
Crystal River, Florida 34428-6708

Senior Resident Inspector  
Crystal River Unit 3  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
6745 N. Tallahassee Road  
Crystal River, Florida 34428

Mr. Gary Boldt  
Vice President - Nuclear Production  
Florida Power Corporation  
Crystal River Energy Complex  
15760 W. Power Line Street  
Crystal River, Florida 34428-6708

Regional Administrator, Region II  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
101 Marietta Street N.W., Suite 2900  
Atlanta, Georgia 30323

Mr. Kerry Landis  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
101 Marietta Street, N.W. Suite 2900  
Atlanta, Georgia 30323-0199