

SSER

Task No.: Allegation A-303a

Ref. No.: 4-84-A-06/181

Characterization: It is alleged that Tompkins-Beckwith (T-B) did not provide documentation necessary to verify that the welding backing rings and the weld base material were compatible.

Assessment of Allegation: In assessing this allegation, the NRC staff examined the relevant ASME Code and documentation for the purchase, storage, and installation of weld materials. ASME Code Section III states that weld backing rings can remain in place after welding, provided the ring and base material are compatible. ASME Code Interpretation III-1-77-208 further states that "documentation shall be adequate to identify the backing ring material as to specification and grade or may consist of a chemical analysis to establish compatibility." Backing material therefore need only be furnished with a Certificate of Compliance (C of C) specifying that the ring material was compatible for a particular base material or identifying the backing ring material.

The EBASCO piping isometric (ISO) drawing specified the backing ring compatibility requirements. This information was transmitted to the ring supplier on the EBASCO Purchase Order. Upon receipt, EBASCO verified the correctness of the C of C accompanying the rings.

When the rings were required, T-B issued a requisition on warehouse (ROW). The ring material requirements from the ISO drawing, as well as the related piping system identification, were shown on the ROW to assure the receipt of the correct rings.

The NRC staff also reviewed the documentation of the main steam, feedwater, and component cooling systems, which have backing rings left in place after welding. In the main steam and feedwater systems, backing rings were only used on joints of non-seismic Category I portions of the piping systems. In the component cooling system, they were used on a Class 3 carbon steel branch line. In all cases, the certification was found sufficient to verify the compatibility of the backing ring and the weld base material.

The staff discussed these findings with the allegor, who agreed and expressed satisfaction with the explanation.

This allegation has neither safety significance nor generic implications.

Potential Violations: None.

Actions Required: None.

References

1. Letter W3-QAIRC 0548, Tompek to Piping Reviewers/Resolution Team member, June 13, 1983.
2. Letter W3-QAIRC 0290, Burgan to Gutierrez, January 25, 1983.
3. Letter "Documentation Requirements for Backing Rings," Kunis to Burgard, February 11, 1983.
4. Sample, EBASCO Purchase Order.
5. Sample, EBASCO Material Receiving Report.
6. Sample, Certificate of Conformance.
7. Sample, Requisition on Warehouse.

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