

Case methods to the P-T limit calculations.

3.0 Discussion

Pursuant to 10 CFR 50.12, the Commission may, upon application by any interested person or upon its own initiative, grant exemptions from the requirements of 10 CFR part 50, when (1) the exemptions are authorized by law, will not present an undue risk to public health or safety, and are consistent with the common defense and security; and (2) when special circumstances are present. Special circumstances are present whenever, according to 10 CFR 50.12(a)(2)(ii), "Application of the regulation in the particular circumstances would not serve the underlying purpose of the rule or is not necessary to achieve the underlying purpose of the rule."

Code Case N-640 (formerly Code Case N-626)

Entergy has requested, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.60(b), an exemption to use ASME Code Case N-640 (previously designated as Code Case N-626) as the basis for establishing the P-T limit curves. Appendix G to 10 CFR Part 50 has required use of the initial conservatism of the K_{Ia} equation since 1974 when the equation was codified. This initial conservatism was necessary due to the limited knowledge of RPV materials. Since 1974, the industry has gained additional knowledge about RPV materials, which demonstrates that the lower bound on fracture toughness provided by the K_{Ic} equation is well beyond the margin of safety required to protect the public health and safety from potential RPV failure. In addition, the RPV P-T operating window is defined by the P-T operating and test limit curves developed in accordance with the ASME Code, Section XI, appendix G, procedure.

The ASME Working Group on Operating Plant Criteria (WGOPC) has concluded that application of Code Case N-640 to plant P-T limits is still sufficient to ensure the structural integrity of RPVs during plant operations. The staff has concurred with ASME's determination. The staff had concluded that application of Code Case N-640 would not significantly reduce the safety margins required by 10 CFR part 50, appendix G. The staff also concluded that relaxation of the requirements of appendix G to the Code by application of Code Case N-640 is acceptable and would maintain, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.12(a)(2)(ii), the underlying purpose of the NRC regulations to ensure an acceptable margin of safety for the Pilgrim RPV and

reactor coolant pressure boundary (RCPB). Therefore, the staff concludes that Code Case N-640 is acceptable for application to the Pilgrim P-T limits.

The staff has determined that Entergy has provided sufficient technical bases for using the methods of Code Case N-640 for the calculation of the P-T limits for the Pilgrim RCPB. The staff has also determined that application of Code Case N-640 to the P-T limit calculations will continue to serve the purpose in 10 CFR part 50, appendix G, for protecting the structural integrity of the Pilgrim RPV and RCPB. In this case, since strict compliance with the requirements of 10 CFR part 50, appendix G, is not necessary to serve the underlying purpose of the regulation, the staff concludes that application of Code Case N-640 to the P-T limit calculations meets the special circumstance provisions stated in 10 CFR 50.12(a)(2)(ii), for granting this exemption to the regulation.

4.0 Conclusion

Accordingly, the Commission has determined that, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.12(a), the exemption is authorized by law, will not endanger life or property or common defense and security, and is, otherwise, in the public interest. Also, special circumstances are present. Therefore, the Commission hereby grants Entergy Nuclear Generation Company an exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR part 50, appendix G, for Pilgrim.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.32, the Commission has determined that the granting of this exemption will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment (66 FR 18986).

This exemption is effective upon issuance.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 13th day of April 2001.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

John A. Zwolinski,

Director, Division of Licensing Project Management, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50-286]

Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc., Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit No. 3; Notice of Withdrawal of Application For Amendment to Facility Operating License

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has

granted the request of Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. (the licensee) to withdraw its June 7, 2000, application for a proposed amendment to Facility Operating License No. DPR-64 for the Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit No. 3, located in Westchester County, New York.

The proposed amendment would have revised the facility Technical Specifications pertaining to operations management qualifications.

The Commission had previously issued a Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendment published in the **Federal Register** on August 9, 2000 (65 FR 48756). However, by letter dated April 2, 2001, the licensee withdrew the proposed change.

For further details with respect to this action, see the application for amendment dated June 7, 2000, and the licensee's letter dated April 2, 2001, which withdrew the application for license amendment. Documents may be examined, and/or copied for a fee, at the NRC's Public Document Room, located at One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike (first floor), Rockville, Maryland, and accessible electronically through the ADAMS Public Electronic Reading Room link at the NRC Web site (<http://www.nrc.gov>).

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 12th day of April 2001.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Richard J. Laufer,

Project Manager, Section 1, Project Directorate I, Division of Licensing Project Management, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Advisory Committee on the Medical Uses of Isotopes: Call for Nominations

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Call for nominations.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is advertising for nominations for the position of nuclear medicine physician on the Advisory Committee on the Medical Uses of Isotopes (ACMUI).

DATES: Nominations are due on or before June 18, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Submit nominations to the Office of Human Resources, Attn: Ms. Joyce Riner, Mail Stop T2D32, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555.