

documented in Inspection Report 50-443/97-08.

D. Review of the Procedures for Ongoing Assurance of Weld and Pipe Quality

In conjunction with the most recent refueling outage at Seabrook Station, the NRC staff conducted a review of the Licensee's American Society of Mechanical Engineers Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code (ASME Code) Section XI inservice inspection program plan for ensuring structural and leaktight integrity of systems important to safety. The NRC inspector found the implementation of all elements of the program to be on schedule and in accordance with the rules of Section XI of the ASME Code.

The NRC inspector observed and/or reviewed the results of inservice inspections conducted by the Licensee on plant equipment, including several piping welds. The NRC inspector found that the inspections were performed in accordance with the rules of Section XI of the ASME Code and NRC regulations. The NRC staff's findings are documented in Inspection Report 50-443/97-03.

E. Review of Past Allegations of Improper Welding Practices

On March 27, 1990, the NRC's Executive Director for Operations established an independent review team to conduct an assessment of the adequacy of the construction welding and nondestructive examination (NDE) practices at Seabrook Station. The team's findings are documented in NUREG-1425, "Welding and Nondestructive Examination Issues at Seabrook Nuclear Station." The independent review team concluded that the pipe welding and NDE programs were generally consistent with applicable codes and NRC requirements and resulted in technically acceptable pipe welds.

In investigating the leaks in the "B" train of the RHR system reported on December 5, 1997, the NRC staff did not identify any factors that would provide a basis for disagreeing with the Licensee's conclusion that the cause of the leakage was the result of service-induced conditions and not a weld or piping defect originating from the original construction. Likewise, the investigation of this issue did not provide any information that would question the validity of NUREG-1425. Therefore, no further action by the NRC staff is warranted with respect to the past allegations of improper welding practices and substandard quality

piping in response to the Petitioner's request.

F. Implications for Other Plant Systems

The Licensee has concluded that the cause of the leakage in the "B" train of the RHR system reported on December 5, 1997, was the result of a service-induced condition and not a defect originating from the original construction. The NRC staff has reviewed the Licensee's activities related to the root cause analysis and subsequent repair in response to the RHR system pipe leakage. The NRC staff found no evidence of improper welding practices or substandard piping that contributed to the RHR system pipe leakage and that would result in generic implications to other plant systems.

III. Conclusion

The NRC staff has reviewed the information submitted by the Petitioner, and the Petitioner's request to suspend the operating license of the Seabrook Station is denied. As described above, the NRC staff has found that the cause of the leaks in the piping in the "B" train of the RHR system was the result of service-induced degradation. There were no deficiencies identified in the fabrication of the original piping or welds that would have generic implications for other plant systems and that would require the operating license of the facility to be suspended.

As provided in 10 CFR 2.206(c), a copy of this Decision will be filed with the Secretary of the Commission for the Commission's review. This Decision will constitute the final action of the Commission 25 days after issuance, unless the Commission, on its own motion, institutes review of the Decision in that time.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 17th day of March 1998.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Samuel J. Collins,

Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

Upon Written Request, Copies Available From: Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Filings and

Information Services, Washington, DC 20549

Extension:

Rule 15Ba2-1, SEC File No. 270-88, OMB Control No. 3235-0083

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") is publishing the following summary of collection for public comment. The Commission plans to submit this existing collection of information to the Office of Management and Budget for extension and approval.

Rule 15Ba2-1 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 provides that an application for registration with the Commission by a bank municipal securities dealer must be filed on Form MSD.

The staff estimates that approximately 40 respondents will utilize this application procedure annually, with a total burden of 60 hours, based upon past submissions. The staff estimates that the average number of hours necessary to comply with the requirements of Rule 15Ba2-1 is 1.5 hours. The average cost per hour is approximately \$40. Therefore, the total cost of compliance for the respondents is \$2,400.

Written comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Consideration will be given to comments and suggestions submitted in writing within 60 days of this publication.

Direct your written comments to Michael E. Bartell, Associate Executive Director, Office of Information Technology, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 5th Street, N.W. Washington, DC 20549.

Dated: March 13, 1998.

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

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