PREFACE TO SECTION XI

INTRODUCTION

Section XI, Division 1, Rules for Inspection and Testing of Components of Light-Water-Cooled Plants, of the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code provides requirements for examination, testing, and inspection of components and systems, and repair/replacement activities in a nuclear power plant. Application of Division 1 begins when the requirements of the Construction Code have been satisfied.

Section XI, Division 2, Requirements for Reliability and Integrity Management (RIM) Programs for Nuclear Reactor Facilities, is a technology-neutral standard of the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code. It provides requirements for protecting pressure integrity of structures, systems, and components (SSCs) that affect reliability. Application of Division 2 begins when the requirements of the Construction Code have been satisfied. It is applicable regardless of the Construction Code classification used for an SSC if the SSC is designated as important to the safety and reliability of an operating facility.

GENERAL

The rules of this Section constitute requirements to maintain the nuclear reactor facility and to return the facility to service, following facility outages, in a safe and expeditious manner. Section XI, Division 1 rules require a mandatory program of examinations, testing, and inspections to evidence adequate safety and to manage deterioration and aging effects. The rules also stipulate duties of the Authorized Nuclear Inservice Inspector to verify that the mandatory program has been completed, permitting the plant to return to service in an expeditious manner.

Section XI, Division 1, rules require the development of a Reliability and Integrity Management (RIM) Program that considers the combination of design, fabrication, degradation mechanisms, inspection, examination, monitoring, operation, and maintenance of SSCs to ensure they will meet their required reliability target values. The rules also stipulate duties of the Authorized Nuclear Inservice Inspector to verify that the program has been completed, implemented, and updated in accordance with the requirements of Division 2.
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