

ASME Section XI Standards Committee (including NRC) Approves Code Case N-788-3 for ANDE-1 NDE Personnel Certification

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ASME Section XI Standards committee approval of Code Case N-788-2 was a break through action for acceptance of the ANDE-1 Standard and recognition of its value to improve NDE Performance. This presentation will discuss each modification and clarification contained in N-788-2 and how it will affect the ANDE-1 Standard requirements and implementation. Data over the past 30 years provides the basis to re-evaluate the effectiveness of the processes currently used to qualify and certify personnel. The data shows NDE continues to demonstrate considerable inconsistent performance in both round robin studies and operating experience. The initiative (ANDE Project) was established with industry experts assembled to develop a new ASME standard addressing a Central Qualification and Certification Program for Nondestructive Examination (NDE) and Quality Control (QC) personnel performance. This new Standard was formed around performance-based concepts that serve as the program core for qualification and certification activities to meet the needs of nuclear and many other industries that require reliable NDE and QC. The use of a performance-based approach, with a Systematic Approach to Training (SAT) process along with developing Job Task Analyses (JTAs), and Qualification Cards (Qual Cards) for NDE and QC personnel makes this Standard unique and is a total departure from current “TIME” based qualification processes. SAT is a proven process and has been around for over 50 years in all branches of the military and many fortune 500 companies. As a result of nuclear power plant operator performance issues, the Institute of Nuclear Power Plant Operations (INPO) implemented the SAT process in the early 1980’s. Since then, operators and other power plant workers have realized significant performance improvements. However, NDE and QC were not included. It is expected that with the implementation of this Standard the performance issues will be improved and that a larger pool of personnel will become available to support any Industry or Specific Industry Sector (SIS) that either requires or chooses to use this Standard.