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April 28, 2015

Mr. Ken Armstrong  
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Email: [kearmstrong@pcl.com](mailto:kearmstrong@pcl.com)

Subject: B31.3-2014, Interpretation of Paras. 331.1.3(a)(2), 331.3(c) Preheat and PWHT Governing Thickness

Reference: Your March 10, 2015 Request for Interpretation; ASME C&S File #15-616

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Your request for interpretation has been reviewed by the B31.3 Process Piping Committee. Following is the Committee's understanding of your questions and official responses:

Question (1): In para. 331.1.3(a)(2) does the phrase "the thickness of the materials being joined at the weld" mean the nominal thickness of the materials being joined at the weld?

Reply (1): Yes.

Question (2): In para. 331.1.3(a)(2) does the phrase "the thickness of the pressure-containing material" mean the nominal thickness of the pressure containing material?

Reply (2): Yes.

Question (3): In para. 331.1.3(c) does the phrase "the thicker of the materials being joined at the weld" mean the nominal thickness at the weld of the thicker of the materials being joined?

Reply (3): Yes.

Sincerely,

Riad Mohamed  
Secretary, B31.3 Process Piping Committee  
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cc: B31.3 Committee  
B31 Standards Committee Officers