

October 11, 2007

STATE LIAISON OFFICERS

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO 10 CFR 50 TO PROVIDE ALTERNATE FRACTURE TOUGHNESS REQUIREMENTS FOR PROTECTION AGAINST THERMAL SHOCK EVENTS  
FSME-07-096**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has published the enclosed *Federal Register* notice (FRN) to amend 10 CFR Part 50 to provide updated fracture toughness requirements for protection against pressurized thermal shock (PTS) events for pressurized water reactor (PWR) pressure vessels. The proposed rulemaking would provide new PTS requirements based on updated analysis methods. This action is desirable because the existing requirements are based on unnecessarily conservative probabilistic fracture mechanics analyses. This action would reduce regulatory burden for licensees, specifically those licensees that expect to exceed the existing requirements before the expiration of their licenses. These new requirements would be voluntarily utilized by any PWR licensee as an alternative to complying with the existing requirements.

Within the FRN is an environmental assessment (EA) to support the proposed rule. The conclusion of the EA is the Commission's finding that no significant environmental impact will result from the proposed rule. The FRN is provided for your review and comment. If you have any comments on the rule and its environmental assessment, please provide them by December 17, 2007. Comments received after this date will be considered if it is practical to do so, but the NRC is able to assure consideration only for comments received on or before this date.

You can use the following methods to transmit your comments: (1) mail written comments to the Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, Attention: Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff; (2) fax comments to the Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, at (301) 415-1101; (3) e-mail comments to [SECY@nrc.gov](mailto:SECY@nrc.gov); and (4) provide comments via the Federal e-rulemaking portal <http://www.regulations.gov>.

For additional information on this action, contact George Tartal, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, telephone (301) 415-0016, e-mail [gmt1@nrc.gov](mailto:gmt1@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Dennis K. Rathbun  
Division of Intergovernmental Liaison and  
Rulemaking  
Office of Federal and State Materials and  
Environmental Management Programs

Enclosure: As stated

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