

January 4, 2000

Mr. Bob Christie
Performance Technology
P.O. Box 51663
Knoxville, Tennessee 37950-1663

SUBJECT: PETITION FOR RULEMAKING (PRM 50-68) - HYDROGEN CONTROL REQUIREMENTS

Dear Mr. Christie:

Your letter of October 7, 1999, as supplemented by a letter dated November 9, 1999, has been referred to me for response with respect to your proposal for changes to 10 CFR 50.44 and 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix A, General Design Criterion 41 concerning combustible gas control in reactor containments. As discussed in phone conversations between yourself and my staff, your letter is being handled as a petition for rulemaking (PRM) in accordance with 10 CFR 2.802. Docket number PRM 50-68 has been assigned to your petition. The NRC staff met with you on November 29, 1999, to explain the petition for rulemaking process and the planned course of action with respect to your request. As noted, you will be provided a copy of the *Federal Register* notice of receipt and request for comment when it is published. Your letter also suggested discussions with the Commission on related aspects. The Commission is satisfied with the staff's approach toward responding to your proposals, and has not expressed a desire for a meeting on the matters contained in your letter at this time.

In addition, your letter has been sent to the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES) for its consideration as part of activities concerning "Option 3" (which was presented in SECY-98-300 as part of the staff's plans for a broad consideration of how existing Part 50 requirements could be revised to better accommodate risk insights). RES submitted a paper to the Commission on November 8, 1999 (SECY-99-264), containing current plans and schedules for this undertaking. This paper identifies 10 CFR 50.44 as one regulation for early assessment in the staff's study. As part of this study, the staff will seek input from interested stakeholders through public workshops.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

Samuel J. Collins, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

DISTRIBUTION: See attached page

FILE NAME: G:\RGEB\g990511 *See Previous Concurrences

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OFFICE	ADIP*	D:NRR*	ADM*	RES*	EDO	OCM
NAME	BBoger	SCollins	DMeyer	MCunningham	WTravers	OCM
DATE	11/24 /99	12/8/99	12/6/99	12/3/99	12/14/99	12/29/99

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PDR PRM 50-68

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EDO Principal Correspondence Control

12/30/99

FROM:

DUE: ~~10/28/99~~

EDO CONTROL: G19990511

DOC DT: 10/07/99

FINAL REPLY:

Bob Christie
Performance Technology

TO:

Commission

FOR SIGNATURE OF :

** GRN **

CRC NO: 99-0845

Collins, NRR

DESC:

ROUTING:

SAN ONOFRE TASK ZERO PILOT PROGRAM FOR
RISK-INFORMED PERFORMANCE BASED REGULATION

Travers
Paperiello
Miraglia
Norry
Blaha
Burns
Thadani, RES

DATE: 10/15/99

ASSIGNED TO:

CONTACT:

NRR

Collins

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

Coordinate response with RES. Add EDO and
Commission on for concurrence. Commission to
review response prior to dispatch.

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12/04

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ACTION

DSSA Received
10-15-99
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EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: 10/28/99

EDO CONTROL: G19990511
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DATE: 10/15/99

ASSIGNED TO: CONTACT:
NRR Collins

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

Add EDO and Commission on for concurrence.

NRR Action: Della Hobbes
NRR Received: October 15, 1999
NRR Routing: Collins/Miner
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ACTION
DUE TO NRR DIRECTOR'S OFFICE
BY 10/25/99

