February 11, 2003

Dr. Michael Tinkleman, Director
ASME International
Center for Research and Technology Development
1828 L Street, N.W., Suite 906
Washington, DC 20036-5104

SUBJECT: UNSOLICITED GRANT PROPOSAL ENTITLED "DEVELOPMENT OF RELIABILITY-BASED LOAD AND RESISTANCE FACTOR DESIGN METHODS FOR PIPING" (DOCUMENT NUMBER 03-02)

Dear Dr. Tinkleman:

We have completed an initial evaluation of the subject proposal and request additional information. Please see the enclosed list of questions and submit your response as soon as possible. You may feel free to email me your response at ejw@nrc.gov

Should you have any questions please contact me on (301) 415-7317.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Elois Wiggins, Acting Team Leader
Procurement Policy Team
Division of Contracts
Office of Administration

Enclosure: List of Questions

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ASME PROPOSAL, “DEVELOPMENT OF RELIABILITY-BASED LOAD AND RESISTANCE FACTOR DESIGN METHODS FOR PIPING
NRC Questions

1. Demonstrate that the LRFD probabilistic approach is compatible with ASME Section XI risk-informed methods.

2. Explain the adequacy of current Section XI methodology for possible Section III risk-informed code revision. Also, indicate if parallel efforts exist to employ Section XI methodology within Section III.

3. Provide more detail about the approach and schedule for anticipated follow-on research to address secondary loading and other issues in order to develop a meaningful ASME code case.

4. Explain how probabilistic fracture mechanics concepts will be utilized for evaluating secondary loading (including fatigue margins) and demonstrate that research team expertise is sufficient in this area.

5. Provide a detailed work breakdown structure which illustrates the task division among the research team and delineate the research team’s affiliation with BMA Engineering.

6. Provide more detail in the budget about the labor categories associated with the subcontracting labor described in the budget. A category should also include graduate student labor.

7. Explain why ASME is the lead organization on this grant while almost 80% of the work is being subcontracted. This discussion should indicate the value added by ASME.