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PROPOSED RULE PR 50  
(68FR 26511)



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USNRC

September 3, 2003 (11:12AM)

Tennessee Valley Authority, 1101 Market Street, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402-2801

OFFICE OF SECRETARY  
RULEMAKINGS AND  
ADJUDICATIONS STAFF

August 29, 2003

Secretary  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
ATTN: Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff  
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Gentlemen:

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION (NRC) - COMMENTS ON PROPOSED  
RULEMAKING FOR 10 CFR 50.69, RISK-INFORMED CATEGORIZATION AND  
TREATMENT OF STRUCTURES, SYSTEMS AND COMPONENTS FOR NUCLEAR POWER  
REACTORS, RIN 3150 - AG42 (VOL. 68 FEDERAL REGISTER 26511, DATED  
MAY 16, 2003)

TVA appreciates the opportunity to comment on the subject proposed  
rule. Implementation of rulemaking to properly categorize and  
treat structures, systems, and components (SSC) according to their  
contribution to risk has the potential for substantially enhancing  
the safety focus, coherence, and efficiency of current regulations  
governing nuclear power plant operations.

TVA wishes to recognize the NRC staff's efforts to this point in  
developing the proposed rule. The currently proposed rule language  
is improved over earlier drafts.

TVA has reviewed the comments contained in the August 22, 2003  
letter to NRC submitted by the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI). TVA  
endorses and supports NEI's comments.

Specifically, TVA agrees with NEI's conclusion that two major  
issues must be resolved for successful issuance of a final rule.

First, the rule language and statements of consideration (SOC) are  
inconsistent with regard to expectations for treatment and  
monitoring of plant SSCs that are safety-related and of low safety  
significance (RISC-3 SSCs). In some cases, the proposed rule and  
SOC contain requirements and expectations that are impractical, not  
risk-effective, or that actually exceed current requirements for  
safety-related equipment. It is the fundamental purpose of this  
rule to concentrate plant and regulatory resources on areas of  
higher safety significance. Additional requirements and  
expectations for RISC-3 SSCs result in disproportionate  
requirements on SSCs which can be shown to have minimal safety  
significance.

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Second, the issue of PRA (probabilistic risk assessment) scope and technical capability necessary for this application must be resolved. TVA believes that the requirements currently specified in the proposed rule provide a sufficient basis for categorizing SSCs. The addition of a requirement for a level 2 internal and external initiating events, all-mode, peer-reviewed PRA that must be submitted to and approved by the NRC is unnecessary and burdensome to the point of outweighing the benefits of this rulemaking.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (423) 751-2508.

Sincerely,



Mark J. Burzynski  
Manager  
Nuclear Licensing

cc: U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
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Washington, D.C. 20555-0001