

July 21, 2004

Dr. Mario V. Bonaca, Chairman
Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

SUBJECT: DRAFT FINAL 10 CFR 50.69, "RISK-INFORMED CATEGORIZATION AND TREATMENT OF STRUCTURES, SYSTEMS, AND COMPONENTS FOR NUCLEAR POWER REACTORS"

Dear Dr. Bonaca:

I am responding to your letter of June 15, 2004, in which you forwarded the comments of the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) on the subject of the draft final rule 10 CFR 50.69 "Risk-Informed Categorization and Treatment of Structures, Systems, and Components for Nuclear Power Reactors."

In your letter, you recommended that the Commission should issue the final rule for 10 CFR 50.69, and in addition that Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.201, "Guidelines for Categorizing Structures, Systems, and Components in Nuclear Power Plants According to Their Safety Significance," should be issued for trial use. Although your letter indicates that RG 1.201 provides an acceptable approach for categorization, you indicate that additional experience with the RG is needed and you highlight several areas associated with RG 1.201 and NEI 00-04, "10 CFR 50.69 SSC Categorization Guideline," where the ACRS has concerns. Your letter requests that the staff brief the ACRS on insights gained from the trial use of RG 1.201.

The staff will continue to keep ACRS apprised of the insights gained from the trial use of RG 1.201 in light of your issues and concerns highlighted in your June 15, 2004 memorandum.

Your review and comments on this important subject are appreciated.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Luis A. Reyes
Executive Director
for Operations

cc: Chairman Diaz
Commissioner McGaffigan
Commissioner Merrifield
SECY

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