

August 31, 2005

The Honorable George V. Voinovich, Chairman
Subcommittee on Clean Air, Climate Change,
and Nuclear Safety
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has forwarded the enclosed notice denying a petition for rulemaking (PRM) to the Office of the Federal Register for publication. The petition, PRM-50-76, requested that the NRC amend its regulations that govern the evaluation of emergency core cooling systems (ECCS) performance, including the associated guidance documents. The petitioner asserts that amendments are necessary to correct technical deficiencies in the correlations and data used for calculation of metal-water oxidation. The petitioner states that the correlations do not consider the complex thermal-hydraulic conditions present during a loss-of-coolant accident (LOCA), including the potential for very high fluid temperature.

The NRC reviewed the petition and found that none of the specific technical issues raised by the petitioner have shown safety-significant deficiencies in the research, calculation methods, or data used to support ECCS performance evaluations. NRC's technical safety analysis demonstrates that current procedures for evaluating ECCS performance are based on sound science and that no amendments to the NRC's regulations and guidance documents are necessary.

Sincerely,

/RA/ BY Thomas Madden for:

William N. Outlaw, Acting Director
Office of Congressional Affairs

Enclosure:
Notice of Denial of Petition
for Rulemaking

cc: Senator Thomas R. Carper

August 31, 2005

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Accession Number: **ML052220156**

*See previous concurrences

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NAME	TReed*	EMcKenna*	MLesar	TMadden for WOutlaw
DATE	08/18 /05	08/18 /05	08/ 22/05	08/29/05

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The Honorable Ralph M. Hall, Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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cc: Representative Rick Boucher

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United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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cc: Senator James M. Jeffords

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