

April 11, 2007

The Honorable Rick Boucher
Chairman, Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has sent to the Office of the Federal Register for publication the enclosed *Federal Register* notice that would amend § 50.55a to incorporate by reference the 2004 Edition of Division 1 of Section III of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) *Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code* (BPV Code); the 2004 Edition of Division 1 rules of Section XI of the ASME BPV Code; and the 2004 Edition of the ASME *Code for Operation and Maintenance of Nuclear Power Plants* (OM Code). These amendments would provide updated rules for constructing and inspecting components and testing pumps and valves in light-water nuclear power plants. This action is in accordance with the NRC's policy to periodically update § 50.55a to incorporate new editions and addenda of the ASME Codes by reference. ASME Codes are national voluntary consensus standards and are required by the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995, Pub. L. 104-113, to be used by government agencies unless the use of such a standard is inconsistent with applicable law or otherwise impractical. The intended effect of this action is to maintain the safety of nuclear reactors and make NRC activities more effective and efficient.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Rebecca L. Schmidt, Director
Office of Congressional Affairs

Enclosure: *Federal Register* notice

cc: Representative J. Dennis Hastert

April 11, 2007

The Honorable Thomas R. Carper
Chairman, Subcommittee on Clean Air
and Nuclear Safety
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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cc: Senator George V. Voinovich

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IDENTICAL LETTER SENT TO:

The Honorable Rick Boucher with cc to: Representative J. Dennis Hastert

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*concurring by email
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