August 7, 2008

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:

Enclosed for your information is the *Federal Register* notice for a supplemental proposed rule amending 10 CFR Part 50. The proposed rule provides updated fracture toughness requirements for protection against pressurized thermal shock (PTS) events for pressurized water reactor (PWR) pressure vessels. The NRC published the proposed PTS rulemaking for public comment in the *Federal Register* on October 3, 2007 (72 FR 56275). During the development of the PTS final rule, the NRC determined that several changes to the proposed rule language would be needed to adequately address stakeholders' comments. The NRC concludes that obtaining stakeholder feedback on these provisions through the use of a supplemental proposed rule is appropriate.

This rulemaking would provide new PTS requirements based on updated analysis methods. This action is desirable because the existing requirements are based on unnecessarily conservative probabilistic fracture mechanics analyses. This action would reduce the regulatory burden for licensees, specifically those licensees that expect to exceed the existing requirements before the expiration of their licenses. These new requirements would be voluntarily utilized by any PWR licensee as an alternative to complying with the existing requirements.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Rebecca L. Schmidt, Director
Office of Congressional Affairs

Enclosure:
Federal Register Notice

cc: Representative Fred Upton

August 7, 2008

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Enclosed for your information is the *Federal Register* notice for a supplemental proposed rule amending 10 CFR Part 50. The proposed rule provides updated fracture toughness requirements for protection against pressurized thermal shock (PTS) events for pressurized water reactor (PWR) pressure vessels. The NRC published the proposed PTS rulemaking for public comment in the *Federal Register* on October 3, 2007 (72 FR 56275). During the development of the PTS final rule, the NRC determined that several changes to the proposed rule language would be needed to adequately address stakeholders' comments. The NRC concludes that obtaining stakeholder feedback on these provisions through the use of a supplemental proposed rule is appropriate.

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Sincerely,

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Rebecca L. Schmidt, Director
Office of Congressional Affairs

Enclosure:
Federal Register Notice

cc: Senator George V. Voinovich

August 7, 2008

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
Chairman, Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Madam Chairman:

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Rebecca L. Schmidt, Director
Office of Congressional Affairs

Enclosure:
Federal Register Notice

cc: Senator James M. Inhofe

August 7, 2008

The Honorable John D. Dingell
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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Sincerely,

/RA/

Rebecca L. Schmidt, Director
Office of Congressional Affairs

Enclosure:
Federal Register Notice

cc: Representative Joe Barton

August 7, 2008

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

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Sincerely,

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Rebecca L. Schmidt, Director
Office of Congressional Affairs

Enclosure:
Federal Register Notice

cc: Representative Fred Upton

IDENTICAL LETTERS SENT TO:
The Honorable Thomas Carper with cc: to Senator George V. Voinovich
The Honorable Barbara Boxer with cc: to Senator James M. Inhofe
The Honorable John D. Dingell with cc: to Representative Joe Barton

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