

STATUS OF NRC ACTIVITIES OF POTENTIAL INTEREST TO OM MAIN COMMITTEE

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10 CFR 50.55a Rulemaking

10 CFR 50.55a was amended to incorporate by reference the 2004 Editions of the Boiler and Pressure Vessel (B&PV) Code (Sections III and XI) and ASME Operation and Maintenance (OM) Code. The final rule was published in the Federal Register on September 10, 2008.

NRC completed a Lean Six Sigma project to improve the timeliness of rulemakings to incorporate future editions/addenda of ASME Codes in 10 CFR 50.55a. The goal is to put measures in place that support updating the regulation on a 2 year frequency. The review process has begun for the 2005 and 2006 addenda of the OM Code, and the 2005 addenda through 2008 edition of ASME B&PV Code, Sections III and XI. The next rulemaking is scheduled for completion in the Fall of 2010. [Note that delays in publishing the next edition of the ASME OM Code will cause the edition/addenda of the OM Code and B&PV Code incorporated in the regulations to be staggered.]

Regulatory Guide Update – OM Code Case Acceptability

Revision 1 of Regulatory Guide 1.192, "Operation and Maintenance Code Case Acceptability, ASME OM Code," and Revision 3 of Regulatory Guide 1.193, "ASME Code Cases Not Approved for Use," have been drafted. These revisions will address new and revised code cases published with the OM Code edition and addenda for 2002 through 2006. 10 CFR 50.55a will be amended to incorporate these latest revisions to the Regulatory Guides by reference. The proposed rulemaking and regulatory guides should be issued for public comment in early 2010.

Risk-informing Special Treatment Requirements of 10 CFR 50.69

To date, no licensees have submitted a license amendment to implement 10 CFR 50.69. On September 25, 2006, NEI submitted Westinghouse Topical Report WCAP-16308-NP (Revision 0, July 2006), "Pressurized Water Reactor Owners Group (PWROG) 10 CFR 50.69 Pilot Program - Categorization Process - Wolf Creek Generating Station," for NRC review. Several public meetings were held with NEI and the PWROG to discuss categorization of structures, systems and components (SSCs) and issues related to treatment of Risk Informed Safety Classification (RISC)-3 SSCs. The NRC approved the categorization process in its final safety evaluation dated March 26, 2009. The NRC staff intends to develop guidance for performing sample inspections at plants voluntarily choosing to implement 10 CFR 50.69 in accordance with the statements of consideration for the rule. The inspections will focus on the implementation of the categorization process approved as part of the NRC review of the 10 CFR 50.69 license amendment request, as well as the SSC treatment established under 10 CFR 50.69. The staff views the inspection guidance as a vehicle for ensuring a stable and predictable regulatory environment for implementation of 10 CFR 50.69.

EPRI MOV Performance Prediction Methodology (PPM) Update

The NRC originally issued a safety evaluation on March 15, 1996 documenting the staff's acceptance of the methodology contained in EPRI topical report TR-103237, "EPRI MOV Performance Prediction Program," for use by licensees to demonstrate the design-basis capability of valves when valve-specific design-basis test data are not available. This safety evaluation was supplemented in 1997, 2001 and 2002 in response to revisions of the EPRI PPM methodology.

The staff prepared Supplement 4 to its original March 15, 2006 safety evaluation to document findings related to additional software changes contained in Addenda 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 to EPRI topical report TR-103237. The final safety evaluation was issued on February 24, 2009. NEI indicated that it planned to submit another revision to the EPRI MOV PPM for the NRC to review. The new revision has not yet been submitted to the NRC.

MCC-Based Motor-Torque Measurements for Periodic Verification of Motor-Operated Valves

EPRI submitted Topical Report 1015069, "Use of MCC-Based Motor-Torque Measurements for Periodic Verification of Motor-Operated Valves," for NRC review on May 18, 2009. The Topical Report documents a methodology for periodically confirming motor-operated valve actuator output capability using electrical measurements obtained at the motor-control center. EPRI requested a fee exemption under 10 CFR 170.11(a)(1)(iii) for all fees associated with NRC's review of the Topical Report. The NRC denied this request in a letter dated July 21, 2009. EPRI has not responded to the July 21, 2009 letter. NRC will review the Topical Report once funding is resolved.

NUREG-1482, "Guidelines for Inservice Testing at Nuclear Power Plants," Revision 2

Revision 1 to NUREG-1482 covers the 1995 Edition through 2000 Addenda of the ASME OM Code. The NRC staff is preparing Revision 2 to NUREG that will address the 2001 through 2006 Addenda of the ASME OM Code. Revision 2 should be issued in conjunction with the next 50.55a rulemaking. The staff is also considering holding the NUREG revision to include the next edition of the OM Code depending on its publication schedule and associated 50.55a rulemaking.

Eleventh NRC/ASME Symposium on Valves, Pumps, and Inservice Testing

The NRC and ASME plan to jointly sponsor the eleventh NRC/ASME Symposium on Valves, Pumps, and Inservice Testing in the Maryland/Washington, DC area during the summer of 2011. This Symposium provides for the exchange of information on technical, programmatic, and regulatory issues associated with the testing of snubbers, valves, and pumps used in nuclear power plants. Individuals from the U.S. and other countries normally participate in the Symposium representing nuclear power plant licensees, consultants, valve and pump vendors, and regulators. The Symposium also includes an interactive session where an NRC staff panel discusses established regulatory positions related to valves, pumps, snubbers, and inservice testing.

ASME-Related Generic Communications

ASME-related generic communications issued by (or in the process of being issued by) the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) and Office of New Reactors (NRO) since the last report (June 2009) to the OM Standards Committee are listed below:

Bulletins

None

Generic Letters

None

Information Notices

- IN 2009-14 (08/17/09): Painting Activities and Cleaning Agents Render Emergency Diesel Generators and Other Plant Equipment Inoperable
- IN 2009-22 (10/02/09): Recent Human Performance Issues at Nuclear Power Plants
- IN 2009-26 (10/28/09): Degradation of Neutron-Absorbing Materials in the Spent Fuel Pool
- IN 2009-## (draft in process) Failure of Motor Operated Valves Due to Lubricant Degradation

Regulatory Issue Summaries

- RIS 2009-06 (06/15/09) Importance of Giving NRC Advance Notice of Intent to Pursue License Renewal
- RIS 2009-## (draft in process) Inservice Inspection and Testing Requirements of Snubbers (Dynamic Restraints) (ADAMS Document # ML091660539) – Published in Federal Register for public comments on November 25, 2009 (74 FR 61715 – 18). Comment period ends on January 11, 2010.

The full text of any of these NRC generic communications can be accessed by visiting the NRC's public website at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/gen-comm/index.html>.