

April 2, 2014

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

Dear Madam Chairman:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is proposing to amend its regulations to revise the acceptance criteria for the emergency core cooling system (ECCS) for light-water nuclear power reactors. The proposed rule: 1) contains ECCS acceptance criteria that are performance-based and reflect recent research findings that identified new embrittlement mechanisms for fuel rods with zirconium alloy cladding under loss-of-coolant accident conditions; 2) addresses two petitions for rulemaking by establishing requirements applicable to all fuel types and cladding materials, and requiring the consideration of crud, oxide deposits, and hydrogen content in zirconium-based alloy fuel cladding; and 3) contains a provision that would allow licensees to use a risk-informed approach to evaluate the effects of debris for long-term cooling.

The NRC is also seeking public comment on three draft regulatory guides that would support the implementation of the proposed rule. The proposed rule will be published in the *Federal Register* in the near future.

Please see the enclosed *Federal Register* Notice for additional details.

Please feel free to contact me at (301) 415-1776 if you have questions or need more information.

Sincerely,

/RA/ Amy Powell for

V. Renee Simpson  
Director, Office of Congressional Affairs

Enclosure:  
*Federal Register* Notice

cc: Senator David Vitter

April 2, 2014

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety  
Committee on Environment and Public Works  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is proposing to amend its regulations to revise the acceptance criteria for the emergency core cooling system (ECCS) for light-water nuclear power reactors. The proposed rule: 1) contains ECCS acceptance criteria that are performance-based and reflect recent research findings that identified new embrittlement mechanisms for fuel rods with zirconium alloy cladding under loss-of-coolant accident conditions; 2) addresses two petitions for rulemaking by establishing requirements applicable to all fuel types and cladding materials, and requiring the consideration of crud, oxide deposits, and hydrogen content in zirconium-based alloy fuel cladding; and 3) contains a provision that would allow licensees to use a risk-informed approach to evaluate the effects of debris for long-term cooling.

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/RA/ Amy Powell for

V. Renee Simpson  
Director, Office of Congressional Affairs

Enclosure:  
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cc: Senator Jeff Sessions

April 2, 2014

The Honorable Fred Upton  
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is proposing to amend its regulations to revise the acceptance criteria for the emergency core cooling system (ECCS) for light-water nuclear power reactors. The proposed rule: 1) contains ECCS acceptance criteria that are performance-based and reflect recent research findings that identified new embrittlement mechanisms for fuel rods with zirconium alloy cladding under loss-of-coolant accident conditions; 2) addresses two petitions for rulemaking by establishing requirements applicable to all fuel types and cladding materials, and requiring the consideration of crud, oxide deposits, and hydrogen content in zirconium-based alloy fuel cladding; and 3) contains a provision that would allow licensees to use a risk-informed approach to evaluate the effects of debris for long-term cooling.

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/RA/ Amy Powell for

V. Renee Simpson  
Director, Office of Congressional Affairs

Enclosure:  
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cc: Representative Henry A. Waxman

April 2, 2014

The Honorable Ed Whitfield  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Energy and Power  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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/RA/ Amy Powell for

V. Renee Simpson  
Director, Office of Congressional Affairs

Enclosure:  
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cc: Representative Bobby L. Rush

April 2, 2014

The Honorable John Shimkus  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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/RA/ Amy Powell for

V. Renee Simpson  
Director, Office of Congressional Affairs

Enclosure:  
*Federal Register* Notice

cc: Representative Paul Tonko

April 2, 2014

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Chairman, Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is proposing to amend its regulations to revise the acceptance criteria for the emergency core cooling system (ECCS) for light-water nuclear power reactors. The proposed rule: 1) contains ECCS acceptance criteria that are performance-based and reflect recent research findings that identified new embrittlement mechanisms for fuel rods with zirconium alloy cladding under loss-of-coolant accident conditions; 2) addresses two petitions for rulemaking by establishing requirements applicable to all fuel types and cladding materials, and requiring the consideration of crud, oxide deposits, and hydrogen content in zirconium-based alloy fuel cladding; and 3) contains a provision that would allow licensees to use a risk-informed approach to evaluate the effects of debris for long-term cooling.

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cc: Representative Paul Tonko

Identical letters were sent to and include all the addressees except those on the concurrence page.

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