



Program Management Office
1000 Westinghouse Drive
Cranberry Township, Pennsylvania 16066

Project Number 694

March 26, 2013

OG-13-121

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Subject: PWR Owners Group
Pressurized Water Reactor Owners Group (PWROG) Comments on February 5, 2013 Federal Register Notice Petition for Rulemaking, "Spent Fuel Cask Certificate of Compliance Format and Content" Docket ID NRC-2012-0266, (PA-LSC-0945)

The Pressurized Water Reactor Owners Group (PWROG) is pleased to provide the following comments on the subject Petition for Rulemaking. The PWROG's membership represents all of the Pressurized Water Reactors in the United States.

The PWROG agrees with and supports the proposed changes described in the Petition for Rulemaking submitted by the Nuclear Energy Institute, and in particular, the addition of specific criteria for the format and content to be included in a spent fuel storage cask Certificate of Compliance (CoC).

On July 22, 1993, the NRC published in the Federal Register their "Final Policy Statement on Technical Specifications Improvements for Nuclear Power Reactors" (58FR39132). The Policy Statement published four criteria to be used to determine those requirements appropriate for inclusion in the Technical Specifications for operating reactors. This Policy Statement described the conditions which led to this action:

[S]ince 1969, there has been a trend towards including in Technical Specifications not only those requirements derived from the analyses and evaluation included in the safety analysis report but also essentially all other Commission requirements governing the operation of nuclear power reactors. This extensive use of Technical Specifications is due in part to a lack of well-defined criteria (in either the body of the rule or in some other regulatory document) for what should be included in Technical Specifications. This has contributed to the volume of Technical Specifications and to the several-fold increase, since 1969, in the number of license amendment applications to effect changes to the Technical Specifications. It has diverted both staff and licensee attention from the

0048
NRO

more important requirements in these documents to the extent that it has resulted in an adverse but unquantifiable impact on safety."

The PWROG believes that the situation described in the Policy Statement regarding plant Technical Specifications has occurred with dry cask system Technical Specifications and, as concluded in the Policy Statement, has resulted in an adverse impact on safety. The criteria proposed in the petition are consistent with the criteria published in the Policy Statement and appropriate for a dry cask system.

The PWROG strongly encourages the NRC to adopt the petition and revise the regulations in order to focus the CoC and the contained Technical Specifications on safety significant issues, thereby improving nuclear safety.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 205-992-7037 or Mr. W. Anthony Nowinowski of the PWR Owners Group Program Management Office at 412-374-6855 or Chad Holderbaum at 412-374-6230.

Sincerely yours,



Jack Stringfellow, Chairman
PWR Owners Group

cc: PWROG Management Committee
PWROG Licensing Subcommittee
PWROG Steering Committee
PWROG PMO
J. Rowley, USNRC
B. Mann, EXCEL Services
C. Holderbaum, PWROG
J. Andrachek, Westinghouse
J. Moorehead, Westinghouse