

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS - ACTION ITEM LIST
April 2, 2013, NRC/ASME Management Conference Call

PARTICIPANTS

NRC

Michael Case, RES
Michael Cheok, NRR
Aladar Csontos, RES
Timothy Lupold, NRR
David Terao, NRO
Tom Boyce, RES
Mohammed Shuaibi, NRO
Shana Helton, NRR
Anthony Markley, NRR
Kamal Manoly, NRR
Carol Moyer, RES
Wallace Norris, RES
Gary Stevens, RES
John Honcharik, NRO
Eric Reichelt, NRO

ASME

Gary Park
Richard Barnes
Richard Swayne
Ralph Hill
Kevin Ennis

Michael Case opened the meeting with three key points. First, communication is extremely important, and the NRC staff wants to continue the calls. The second point was focus. A primary objective of the conference calls is to obtain management guidance so that issues can be resolved. The agenda for these calls needs to be focused on the issues requiring management direction. The third point was opportunity. The industry is working on many diverse issues at the moment. While the NRC appreciates the need for the industry efforts, the reduction in NRC resources means that the NRC will not be able to directly support all of the current efforts.

ACTION ITEMS

NRC

- ASME encouraged NRC to consider adding the 2013 Edition to the proposed rulemaking currently under development that would approve 2009 through 2011 Codes even if it means that proposed rule would be delayed. There are additions and changes to the 2013 Edition that are very important to the industry.
- The NRC proposal to develop Enforcement Guidance Memorandum and Regulatory Issue Summary, which would provide a regulatory path forward on transition from Code Symbol Stamps to Certification Mark, was welcomed by ASME. ASME requested that NRC try to issue the documents as quickly as possible as utility members are concerned that inspectors may issue findings in the interim.
- Richard Barnes requested NRC support for the development of ASME Code requirements for carbon fiber composites (Section III, Division 5). The ASME believes

that NRC input is vital. NRC advised that Jay Collins, NRR, will be on the task group, and Josh Kusnick, RES, will provide technical support.

- ASME indicates that one small modular reactor (SMR) vendor has indicated that an application will be submitted to NRC in 2014. The designs of some of the SMRs preclude the use of Section XI, Division 1 (i.e., inspection requirements for light-water reactors). Accordingly, a Risk Inspection Methodology (RIM) has been proposed and is under development. ASME is requesting input and guidance from NRC with respect to RIM's technical and regulatory adequacy. ASME was advised that NRO staff will be able to review and comment, but it will be difficult to directly participate on committee given present resources. ASME requested that the NRC identify the NRO staff that would review and comment so that committee documents can be provided to them.
- There have been some instances where NRC staff believed that the working group members were not given sufficient time to review action items prior to voting. Sufficient notice is required so that the NRC's committee representative can develop a proposed NRC position through input from cognizant NRC staff in other program offices. ASME committed to re-emphasizing the importance of timely issuance of committee action items.
- NRC committed to providing input to ASME prior to May 2013 meetings with respect to need for regulatory requirements contained in Section XI. The input was provided to the Section XI Executive Committee and to the Working Group on General Requirements for consideration prior to the May meetings.
- A revised Section III, Section XI priority list is to be developed which would include importance of each action item and to what segment of the industry it applied.
- NRC committed to maintain organization charts of NRC staff participating on Section III, Section XI, and OM committees.
- ASME requested that NRC participate in Nuclear Codes and Standards Workshop – European International Working Group Formation, June 2014, Prague, Czech Republic. NRC indicated that participation is doubtful due to budgetary cutbacks unless a direct need is identified.
- ASME requested that the NRC assess the regulatory framework for new plant containment designs. The NRC has not directly addressed any version of Section III, Division 2, and instead relies on a combination of requirements and guidance contained in Standard Review Plans, 10 CFR 50.55a, and regulatory guides. This has created a design issue. The 2001 Edition with the 2003 Addenda of the ASME Code is listed in Regulatory Guide 1.136. Designers believe that they can't use the improved provisions of the ASME Code in later versions because those versions are not listed in the applicable regulatory documents. David Terao indicated that, for the APR-1400, which is referencing the 2004 Edition, this issue is being addressed in the pre-application, i.e., changes between the 2003 Addenda and 2004 Edition are being described in the pre-application documents.

ASME

- NRC provided a status on development of a "Roadmap" of technical issues that needed to be addressed to support NRC conditional approval of an ASME Code Case enabling utility adoption of high density polyethylene (HDPE) pipe. The Roadmap was developed by a task group for the Nuclear Energy Standards Coordination Collaborative (NESCC).

The NESCC is a group of standards development organizations assessing standards whose mission is to collaboratively accelerate the development of standards.

Several things occurred after the conference call. The NESCC provided the Roadmap to ASME AST, LLC, who has adopted it as an ASME product. NESCC and ASME will participate in a workshop on the Roadmap on April 18th in DC. Frank Schaaf facilitated a special meeting on the Roadmap during Code Week in Miami. In addition, ASME AST, LLC and the NESCC Task Group leader will be briefing the roadmap to the EPRI Buried Pipe Integrity Group (BPIG) in July.

- ASME will provide specific issues to NRC with respect to lessons learned from designers regarding difficulties in applying Section III, Division 2, as currently approved in various NRC documents.
- Kevin Ennis was identified as ASME contact for discussions with the NRC regarding draft requirements proposed by the Office of Management and Budget to make those documents that will be incorporated by reference into government regulations available to the public.

JOINT

- Mark Ferlisi and Wally Norris will be coordinating effort to address recurring relief requests
 - Section XI, Non-mandatory Appendix D, will be assessed as part of this effort as weld surface condition is a major factor with regard to the ability to obtain adequate weld inspection coverage.
- Next conference call date tentatively identified as last week of August or first week of September 2013.