

September 12, 2013

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 publishing the enclosed *Federal Register* notice in the *Federal Register* denying a petition for rulemaking (PRM), PRM-50-105, submitted by Mr. Mark Leyse. The PRM requested that the NRC require all holders of licenses for nuclear power plants to operate nuclear power plants with in-core thermocouples at different elevations and radial positions throughout the reactor core to enable the operators to accurately measure a large range of in-core temperatures in nuclear power plant steady-state and transient conditions. In summary, the NRC is denying the PRM because: 1) there are no protection or plant control functions that utilize inputs from core exit thermocouples (CETs); 2) there is no operational necessity for more accurate measurement of temperatures throughout the core; 3) the petition provided inadequate justification of why precise knowledge of core temperature at various elevations and radial positions would enhance safety or change operator action; and 4) the NRC believes that, despite the known limitations of CETs, CETs are sufficient to allow nuclear power plant operators to take timely and effective action in the event of an accident. The reasons for the denial are discussed in further detail in the enclosed *Federal Register* notice.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Rebecca L. Schmidt, Director
Office of Congressional Affairs

Enclosure:
Federal Register notice

cc: Senator David Vitter

September 12, 2013

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:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is publishing the enclosed *Federal Register* notice in the *Federal Register* denying a petition for rulemaking (PRM), PRM-50-105, submitted by Mr. Mark Leyse. The PRM requested that the NRC require all holders of licenses for nuclear power plants to operate nuclear power plants with in-core thermocouples at different elevations and radial positions throughout the reactor core to enable the operators to accurately measure a large range of in-core temperatures in nuclear power plant steady-state and transient conditions. In summary, the NRC is denying the PRM because: 1) there are no protection or plant control functions that utilize inputs from core exit thermocouples (CETs); 2) there is no operational necessity for more accurate measurement of temperatures throughout the core; 3) the petition provided inadequate justification of why precise knowledge of core temperature at various elevations and radial positions would enhance safety or change operator action; and 4) the NRC believes that, despite the known limitations of CETs, CETs are sufficient to allow nuclear power plant operators to take timely and effective action in the event of an accident. The reasons for the denial are discussed in further detail in the enclosed *Federal Register* notice.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Rebecca L. Schmidt, Director
Office of Congressional Affairs

Enclosure:
Federal Register notice

cc: Senator Jeff Sessions

September 12, 2013

The Honorable Fred Upton
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 Henry A. Waxman

September 12, 2013

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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Rebecca L. Schmidt, Director
Office of Congressional Affairs

Enclosure:
Federal Register notice

cc: Representative Bobby L. Rush

September 12, 2013

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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Rebecca L. Schmidt, Director
Office of Congressional Affairs

Enclosure:
Federal Register notice

cc: Representative Paul Tonko

September 12, 2013

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

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Rebecca L. Schmidt, Director
Office of Congressional Affairs

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Federal Register notice

cc: Representative Paul Tonko

IDENTICAL LETTERS SENT TO:

The Honorable Barbara Boxer with cc: to Senator David Vitter
The Honorable Thomas Carper with cc: to Senator Jeff Sessions
The Honorable Fred Upton with cc: to Representative Henry A. Waxman
The Honorable Ed Whitfield with cc: to Representative Bobby L. Rush

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