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2013 SEP 10 PM 3: 29

RECEIVED

September 9, 2013

6/24/2013

78FR 37848

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Ms. Cindy K. Bladey  
Chief, Rules, Announcements and Directives Branch  
Office of Administration  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

**Subject:** Comments on Draft Regulatory Guides DG-1230, DG -1231, DG-1232, DG-1233, and the Proposed Rule Incorporating the Final Revisions of Regulatory Guides 1.84, 1.147, and 1.192 into 10 CFR 50.55a, Docket ID NRC-2009-0359

**Project Number: 689**

Dear Ms. Bladey:

In *Federal Register* notices 78FR37721, 78FR37848 and 78FR37886, the NRC requested public comments on its proposal to amend its regulations to incorporate by reference the latest revision of three NRC regulatory guides (RG) that would approve new and revised Code Cases published by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) and one RG that delineates Code Cases not approved. This proposal also addresses a Petition for Rulemaking and re-sequencing the order of the NRC's requirements governing Codes and standards to comply with the Office of the Federal Register's (OFR) guidelines for incorporating by reference.

NEI is pleased that the NRC utilizes the voluntary consensus standard ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel (BPV) and Operations and Maintenance (OM) Code Cases. The ASME-approved Code Cases are alternatives for compliance with certain Code requirements. The implementation of acceptable Code Cases provides licensees with alternatives in meeting the engineering standards established for construction, maintenance, in-service inspection (ISI) and in-service testing (IST) of nuclear power plant components.

On behalf of the industry, the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) submits the following comments for NRC consideration. In addition, NEI supports the comments submitted on August 29, 2013, by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME).

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**SUNSI Review Complete**

**Template = ADM - 013**

**E-RIDS= ADM-03**

**Add= J. Doyle (did)**

M. Bagchi (mkb2)

H. Rodriguez-Luccioni (HLR)

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NEI's comments address the following:

1. NEI supports the Petition for Rulemaking, PRM-50-89, requesting that the NRC amend its regulations to allow consideration of alternatives to the ASME BPV and OM Code Cases. The possibility of implementing an alternative to a Code Case approved the Director of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation will reduce the administrative burden on licensees and significantly reduce the lengthy process of proposing and gaining acceptance for a change or modification to a Code Case.
2. NEI generally agrees that the proposed RGs and related documents are written in a clear and effective manner, consistent with the Plain Writing Act and the Presidential Memorandum, "Plain Language in Government Writing." Well-written regulatory guidance documents support their correct interpretation and implementation.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark A. Richter". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "M".

Mark A. Richter