

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS - ACTION ITEM LIST
November 12, 2013, NRC/ASME Management Conference Call

PARTICIPANTS

NRC

Michael Case, RES
Kathryn Brock, NRR
David Rudland, RES
David Terao, NRO
Tom Boyce, RES
Kamal Manoly, NRR
Lynn Mrowca, NRO
Anthony Markley, NRR
Carol Moyer, RES
Gary Stevens, RES
Jay Collins, NRR
John Mckirgan, NRO
Stephen Cumblidge, NRR
Wallace Norris, RES

ASME

Gary Park
Ralph Hill
Richard Swayne
Ronald Yonekawa
Mark Ferlisi
Ryan Crane

Michael Case opened the meeting with two key points. First, communication is very important, and the NRC staff finds the conference calls valuable. The second point is 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.

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS DISCUSSED

- NRC provided current schedules for rulemakings addressing ASME action items.
 - ASME Code Cases: the staff advised ASME that the final rulemaking/guides are scheduled for publication in June 2014. However, the number of public comments on the proposed rulemaking/draft guides were less than anticipated, and the staff is hoping to publish the final rule/guides in the March/April 2014 time frame.
 - ASME Editions: the staff advised ASME that the proposed rulemaking to incorporate the 2009 through 2013 edition/addenda into 10 CFR 50.55a is scheduled for publication in September 2014.
 - ASME indicated that there were a number of changes in the 2009 through 2013 edition/addenda important to the industry. ASME asked if there were steps that could be taken to publish the proposed rulemaking sooner and offered its assistance if that would help.

- ASME discussed their plans for responding to NRC comments on the use of high density polyethylene (HDPE) piping in safety-related Class 3 buried piping, and the development of a Section III mandatory appendix containing Code rules for HDPE piping.
 - Staff indicated that the plan was reasonable, and thanked the ASME for their efforts.
- ASME advised the staff that the Section XI, Division 2, revision addressing a Risk Inspection Methodology (RIM) process for new non light-water reactors would be transmitted to the industry for review in early 2014. Reliability targets are going to be used in this process which are, in part, in an ANS document that has not yet been reviewed by the staff. The staff and ASME agreed to schedule a meeting in early 2014 to discuss RIM in greater detail.
- ASME inquired regarding NRC plans for approving Section III, Division 3, for use by the industry. The staff has not completed its review of these Code requirements given current resource limitations. Mike Case has the action to determine whether the staff can resume and complete its review.
- The ASME's Board on Nuclear Codes and Standards (BNCS) instructed the consensus level committees to consider the removal of "regulatory" requirements from the ASME Code. An example of a Code provision considered to be a regulatory requirement would be the need for licensees to submit 90-day summary reports after an outage listing inspection findings. The staff completed a review of the regulatory requirements in Section XI and determined that certain regulatory requirements could be deleted as the information is available at each site. However, the staff determined that certain provisions have safety implications, are integral to the Code, and should remain in the body of the Code. ASME reported that Section XI, Working Group General Requirements, committee members are currently considering the input provided by the staff.
- The ASME Code currently requires essentially 100% of a weld to be examined. NRC regulations require that licensees submit a request for relief if ASME provisions cannot be met. There are certain welds where geometry or obstructions limit the percentage of the weld that can be examined. While improvements in technology and procedures can increase coverage and reliability, essentially 100% will not be achievable absent new, different technology. The ASME, in conjunction with licensees, initiated dialogue to determine whether the staff would be amenable to eliminating the need for such recurring relief requests every interval. The staff indicated that recurring requests for relief are also a burden on the staff, and the staff would be interested in pursuing this further if the ASME considered, for example, ways to make examinations more reliable and improve coverage. A task group comprised of staff and industry representatives is being formed. The task group will hold its first meeting in February 2014 during the scheduled ASME Boiler Code Week.
- The next NRC/ASME management conference call will be held on April 23, 2014, at 1:30 pm.