



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

Sandra Gavutis, Executive Director
C-10 Research and Education Foundation
44 Merrimac Street
Newburyport, MA 01950

Dear Ms. Gavutis:

I am responding to the C-10 Research and Education Foundation's (C-10's) petition for rulemaking (PRM) dated September 25, 2014 (Accession No. ML14281A124 in the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) Agencywide Documents Access and Management System). In this petition, C-10 requested that the NRC amend its regulations to provide better protection against concrete degradation due to alkali-silica reaction (ASR) at U.S. nuclear power plants. The petition requested that the NRC require all licensees to comply with American Concrete Institute (ACI) Committee Report ACI 349.3R, "Evaluation of Existing Nuclear Safety-Related Concrete Structures," and American Society for Testing and Materials Standard C856-11, "Standard Practice for Petrographic Examination of Hardened Concrete." C-10's request asserted that reliance on visual inspection does not adequately identify ASR, and does not confirm ASR or provide the current state of ASR damage without petrographic examination.

The PRM was docketed by the NRC on October 8, 2014, and was assigned Docket No. PRM-50-109. The notice of docketing was published on January 12, 2015 (80 FR 1476), and the public comment period closed on March 30, 2015. The NRC has determined that the PRM failed to present information or arguments not already considered by the NRC when addressing ASR at a nuclear power plant, and that requirements already in place provide reasonable assurance of adequate protection of public health and safety at nuclear power plants, including in the case of ASR-related degradation. The NRC is, therefore, denying the petition. The reasons for the denial are discussed in detail in the enclosed notice, which will be published in the *Federal Register*. Upon publication of the notice, the NRC will close PRM-50-109.

You may direct any questions regarding this matter to Meena Khanna, by calling 301-415-2150 or by e-mailing Meena.Khanna@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

Annette L. Vietti-Cook
Secretary of the Commission

Enclosure:
Federal Register notice

**SUBJECT: PRM-50-109 - IMPROVED IDENTIFICATION TECHNIQUES AGAINST ALKALI-SILICA REACTION (ASR) CONCRETE DEGRADATION AT NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS
DATED:**

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ADAMS Accession Nos: PKG: ML15301A002; **LTR:** ML15301A003; **SECY:** ML15301A084; **FRN:** ML15301A192
Congressional Ltrs: ML15301A197 *concurrence via email

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