



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

December 13, 2016

Dr. Dennis Bley, Chairman  
Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF RG 1.26, REVISION 5, "QUALITY GROUP CLASSIFICATIONS AND STANDARDS FOR WATER-, STEAM-, AND RADIOACTIVE-WASTE-CONTAINING COMPONENTS OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS"

Dear Dr. Bley:

The staff appreciates the insights provided by the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) and the substantial amount of time the ACRS has devoted to Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.26, "Quality Group Classifications and Standards for Water-, Steam-, and Radioactive-Waste Containing Components of Nuclear Power Plants." The purpose of this regulatory guide is to ensure that appropriate quality standards are applied to systems and components to satisfy General Design Criterion 1, "Quality Standards and Records," as set forth in Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 50, Appendix A, "General Design Criteria for Nuclear Power Plants." In your letter dated October 17, 2016 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System Accession No. ML16286A590), you recommended the following:

1. Revision 5 of RG 1.26 should be issued.
2. The next revision [Revision 6] of RG 1.26 should be broadened to include a set of basic principles for assignment of components to each quality group.

For ACRS recommendation 1, this letter confirms that the staff is taking the necessary steps to issue Revision 5 to RG 1.26. This should be completed in approximately 2 months.

For ACRS recommendation 2, the NRC staff plans to address the following as part of the next revision to RG 1.26. The staff will modify the quality group classification criteria to be applicable to more than large light-water reactors, including advanced reactor designs, and improve consistency in the application of the criteria. The staff will address the treatment of Quality Group D components either through the inclusion of further subdivisions in the RG addressing treatment or by references to other documents addressing treatment. This revision effort will include the consideration of equipment subject to the regulatory treatment of nonsafety systems process and how the quality group classifications would apply to that equipment. The staff also plans to include guidance on how to apply quality groups to the risk-informed framework established in 10 CFR 50.69, "Risk-informed categorization and treatment of structures, systems, and components for nuclear power reactors." Lastly, the staff plans to

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review American National Standards Institute/American Nuclear Society 58.14-2011, "Safety and Pressure Integrity Classification Criteria for Light Water Reactors," for approval for use or endorsement.

The next revision of this RG will be integrated with the completion of the staff's planned activities and the completion of anticipated design certifications (e.g., NuScale). The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff anticipates that these activities will include significant stakeholder and ACRS involvement. Our plans are to complete these activities over the next 5 years. The NRC staff values the Committee's review and thanks the Committee for its time.

Sincerely,

***/RA Michael R. Johnson Acting for/***

Victor M. McCree  
Executive Director for Operations

cc: Chairman Burns  
Commissioner Svinicki  
Commissioner Baran  
SECY

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**\* via e-mail**

**EDO-002**

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