

NRC Engagement with ASME Code Activities

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Overview



- NRC uses the Code to develop regulations related to design, inservice inspection, and inservice inspection
 - Open and transparent
 - Efficient use of resources
 - Rigorous independent reviews of Code actions
- NRC sends representatives to a variety of ASME Code committee meetings
 - Section III
 - Section XI
 - Operation and Maintenance
- NRC management is engaged with Code activities
 - Management level meetings
 - Newly-formed internal Executive Steering Committees on codes and standards

Role of NRC Representatives



- Attends committee meetings and actively participate
- Understands goals and objectives of the various committees
- Organizes staff reviews of Code actions
- Engages the committees in open dialogue to resolve technical disagreements
- Engages NRC staff in the same manner (i.e., encourage fairness)

NRC Management Roles



- Newly-developed steering committees on codes and standards issues
 - Reviews staff negative votes
 - Ensures consistent, fair staff positions
 - Reviews policy, procedure, and priorities

- Management-level meetings
 - Bi-annual teleconference with ASME management (face-to-face every two years)
 - Focuses on efficiency and effectiveness of the Code process and NRC involvement
 - Does not focus on regulatory positions, which are determined in an open, transparent manner

Examples of Successes



- NRC agreement to include the 2017 Edition of the Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code into the upcoming proposed rulemaking
- ASME facilitation of the rulemaking process by making Code materials available for public inspection
- 2017 ASME letter to NRC suggesting Code Cases to be included in rulemaking

Conclusions

- ASME codes and standards are an important part of NRC's regulatory framework
- Active staff involvement
 - Facilitates incorporation of standards into NRC regulations
 - Minimizes conditions
 - Provides points of contact for resolution of technical disagreements
- NRC management is actively overseeing codes and standards activities