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March 8, 2018

**Mr. Michael C. Layton, Director
Division of Spent Fuel Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001**

**Subject: Endorsement of ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code, Section III,
Division 3, Containment Systems for Transportation and Storage of Spent
Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Radioactive Material**

Dear Sir:

In the past, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers has requested that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission consider endorsing Section III, Division 3 of the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code. In a letter from Mr. Mark Lombard dated August 15, 2014, the NRC provided ASME with review comments on Section III, Division 3 reflecting the 2007 Edition with 2009 Addenda. This first step was greatly appreciated by ASME.

Since that time, the Subgroup on Containment Systems for Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Radioactive Material (more commonly known as Subgroup NUPACK), the divisional committee with overall responsibility for Division 3, has spent numerous meetings considering those review comments, asking for further clarification, and trying to determine how and where Division 3 requirements could be improved or clarified.

Prior to the last Code Week meeting held August 6-11, 2017 in Minneapolis, MN, draft responses to the NRC review comments were finalized and balloted by Subgroup NUPACK. This ballot was initiated to assure that the responses were accurate and reflected the consensus of the committee, which includes representatives from a majority of the companies supporting the nuclear storage and transportation industry. The Subgroup NUPACK approved those responses. Hence, ASME is pleased to forward those ASME responses to the NRC review comments under this letter.

These responses do not provide specific Code change details due to the simple fact that the ASME consensus approval process has not yet been fully completed through all of the appropriate divisional and technical committees. However, please note that at the August, 2017 Code Week meeting, Subgroup NUPACK did begin the revision process by assigning personnel to begin generating Division 3 mark-ups based on the many previous discussions held in Subgroup NUPACK, with NRC personnel present at those discussions.

A response to this letter is not required unless the NRC so wishes. Subgroup NUPACK plans to proceed with making changes to Division 3, with the involvement of the NRC representative on the committee.



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ASME continues to look forward working with the NRC and toward the time when the NRC is able to officially endorse Section III, Division 3.

Thank you for your time and patience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Porco', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Mr. Richard Porco, Chair
ASME Board on Nuclear Codes and Standards
richpor951@aol.com

Enclosure

cc: Members, ASME Board on Nuclear Codes and Standards
Members, ASME BPV Committee on Construction of Nuclear Facility Components (III)

Enclosure

**NRC Reviewer Comments on ASME Code, Section III, Division 3
(ASME Record #17-1763)**