



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

January 6, 1994

The Honorable Joseph Lieberman, Chairman
Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Regulation
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Enclosed for the information of the Subcommittee are copies of a notice of a proposed rulemaking to amend § 50.55a of 10 CFR Part 50 which would incorporate by reference national codes and standards for the inservice inspection of nuclear power plant components.

This section of the regulations incorporates by reference Division 1 rules of Section XI, "Rules for Inservice Inspection of Nuclear Power Plant Components," of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code (ASME Code). The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) proposes to amend these regulations to incorporate by reference the 1992 Edition with the 1992 Addenda of Subsection IWE, "Requirements for Class MC and Metallic Liners of Class CC Components of Light-Water Cooled Power Plants," and Subsection IWL, "Requirements for Class CC Concrete Components of Light-Water Cooled Power Plants," of Section XI, Division 1, of the ASME Code.

The proposed rule would:

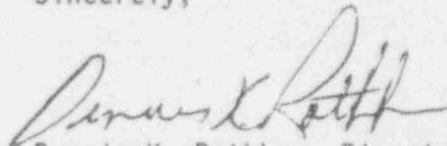
- For the first time, incorporate by reference Subsection IWE and Subsection IWL, of Section XI, Division 1, of the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code. The NRC has reviewed the 1992 Edition with the 1992 Addenda of Subsection IWE and Subsection IWL of Section XI of the ASME Code and has found that with specified modifications these subsections of Section XI provide an acceptable method for detecting degradation of metal and concrete ~~integrity~~ before structural integrity is compromised. Existing ~~regulatory~~ requirements contain general requirements applicable to ~~containment~~ inspection and surveillance, but these regulations do ~~not~~ provide sufficiently specific guidance on how to perform the necessary containment examinations.
- Require licensees to expedite implementation of the Subsection IWE and Subsection IWL containment examinations by completing the first examination within 5 years of the effective date of this rule. This expedited examination schedule is necessary to prevent a delay in the implementation of Subsection IWE and Subsection IWL to establish an early baseline for future examinations.

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- Include modifications to the endorsement of Subsection IWL to address four issues that are addressed in NRC Regulatory Guide 1.35, Revision 3, "Inservice Inspection of UngROUTed Tendons in Prestressed Concrete Containment Structures," but are not currently addressed in Subsection IWL. Because of the importance the NRC attributes to these issues, each issue has been addressed in the proposed rulemaking in a modification to the endorsement of Subsection IWL.
- Include a modification to the endorsement of Subsection IWE to address the NRC staff concern that Section XI does not require examination of inaccessible areas.

Sincerely,



Dennis K. Rathbun, Director
Office of Congressional Affairs

Enclosure:
As Stated

cc: Senator Alan Simpson



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20556-0001

January 6, 1994

The Honorable Philip Sharp, Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Power
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Enclosed for the information of the Subcommittee are copies of a notice of a proposed rulemaking to amend § 50.55a of 10 CFR Part 50 which would incorporate by reference national codes and standards for the inservice inspection of nuclear power plant components.

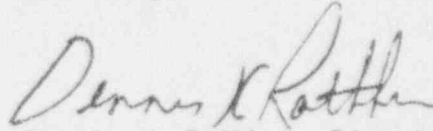
This section of the regulations incorporates by reference Division 1 rules of Section XI, "Rules for Inservice Inspection of Nuclear Power Plant Components," of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code (ASME Code). The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) proposes to amend these regulations to incorporate by reference the 1992 Edition with the 1992 Addenda of Subsection IWE, "Requirements for Class MC and Metallic Liners of Class CC Components of Light-Water Cooled Power Plants," and Subsection IWL, "Requirements for Class CC Concrete Components of Light-Water Cooled Power Plants," of Section XI, Division 1, of the ASME Code.

The proposed rule would:

- For the first time, incorporate by reference Subsection IWE and Subsection IWL, of Section XI, Division 1, of the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code. The NRC has reviewed the 1992 Edition with the 1992 Addenda of Subsection IWE and Subsection IWL of Section XI of the ASME Code and has found that with specified modifications these subsections of Section XI provide an acceptable method for detecting degradation of metal and concrete components before structural integrity is compromised. Existing regulatory requirements contain general requirements applicable to containment inspection and surveillance, but these regulations do not provide sufficiently specific guidance on how to perform the necessary containment examinations.
- Require licensees to expedite implementation of the Subsection IWE and Subsection IWL containment examinations by completing the first examination within 5 years of the effective date of this rule. This expedited examination schedule is necessary to prevent a delay in the implementation of Subsection IWE and Subsection IWL to establish an early baseline for future examinations.

- Include modifications to the endorsement of Subsection IWL to address four issues that are addressed in NRC Regulatory Guide 1.35, Revision 3, "Inservice Inspection of UngROUTED Tendons in Prestressed Concrete Containment Structures," but are not currently addressed in Subsection IWL. Because of the importance the NRC attributes to these issues, each issue has been addressed in the proposed rulemaking in a modification to the endorsement of Subsection IWL.
- Include a modification to the endorsement of Subsection IWE to address the NRC staff concern that Section XI does not require examination of inaccessible areas.

Sincerely,



Dennis K. Rathbun, Director
Office of Congressional Affairs

Enclosure:
As Stated

cc: Representative Michael Bilirakis



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

January 6, 1994

The Honorable Richard Lehman, Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources
Committee on Natural Resources
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Enclosed for the information of the Subcommittee are copies of a notice of a proposed rulemaking to amend § 50.55a of 10 CFR Part 50 which would incorporate by reference national codes and standards for the inservice inspection of nuclear power plant components.

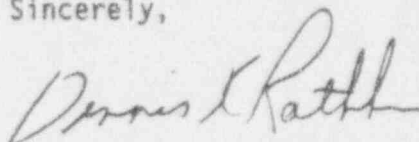
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The proposed rule would:

- For the first time, incorporate by reference Subsection IWE and Subsection IWL, of Section XI, Division 1, of the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code. The NRC has reviewed the 1992 Edition with the 1992 Addenda of Subsection IWE and Subsection IWL of Section XI of the ASME Code and has found that with specified modifications these subsections of Section XI provide an acceptable method for detecting degradation of metal and concrete containments before structural integrity is compromised. Existing regulatory requirements contain general requirements applicable to containment inspection and surveillance, but these regulations do not provide sufficiently specific guidance on how to perform the necessary containment examinations.
- Require licensees to expedite implementation of the Subsection IWE and Subsection IWL containment examinations by completing the first examination within 5 years of the effective date of this rule. This expedited examination schedule is necessary to prevent a delay in the implementation of Subsection IWE and Subsection IWL to establish an early baseline for future examinations.

- Include modifications to the endorsement of Subsection IWL to address four issues that are addressed in NRC Regulatory Guide 1.35, Revision 3, "Inservice Inspection of UngROUTED Tendons in Prestressed Concrete Containment Structures," but are not currently addressed in Subsection IWL. Because of the importance the NRC attributes to these issues, each issue has been addressed in the proposed rulemaking in a modification to the endorsement of Subsection IWL.
- Include a modification to the endorsement of Subsection IWE to address the NRC staff concern that Section XI does not require examination of inaccessible areas.

Sincerely,



Dennis K. Rathbun, Director
Office of Congressional Affairs

Enclosure:
As Stated

cc: Representative Barbara Vucanovich