

Streamlining 10 CFR Part 50.55a

July 14, 2020

Materials Exchange Public
Meeting



EMBARC Venture Studios Effort

- EMBARK Venture Studios initiated a project to develop ideas for transforming NRC's processes regarding ASME Code and Code Cases.
- Focused on:
 - 1) improved clarity of 10 CFR 50.55a.
 - 2) more efficient process for approving ASME codes and standards.
 - 3) reduction of unnecessary regulatory burden, while achieving the NRC's safety objectives.
- Identified three recommendations

Streamlining Recommendations

- 1) Relax the Requirement to Update Inservice Inspection and Inservice Testing Programs Every 10 Years.
 - Stakeholder agreed this would have minimal impact on safety and provide flexibility to industry.
 - Would occur following the next update to 2019 ASME BPV Code or the 2020 ASME OM Code.
 - Licensees would adopt these later editions prior to taking advantage of this flexibility.

Streamlining Recommendations

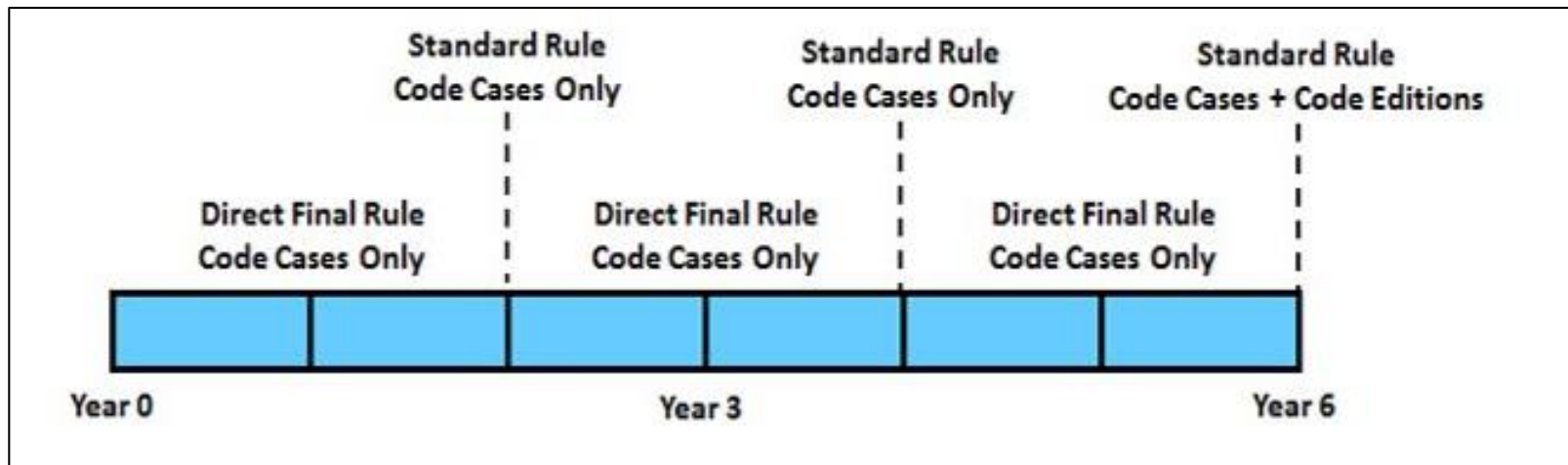
2) Institute Direct-Final Rules for Unconditionally Approved Code Cases.

- Increased efficiency would benefit both the NRC and US nuclear industry.
- Direct final rule approach may not be suitable for Code Cases with proposed conditions.

3) Decrease the Frequency of Code Edition Rulemakings.

- With Recommendation (1), there is no longer strong driver to incorporate by reference new code editions into § 50.55a on a 2-year cycle.

Sample Schedule



- The above is just one example of the rulemaking schedule.
- Code edition rulemaking could contain each edition released since last rulemaking or only the latest edition.
- Technical review of each edition would be documented as each edition is released.

Current Status

- Recommendation (1) will involve rulemaking.
 - However, all three recommendations are inter-related such that it may not be feasible to implement one recommendation without implementing all of them.
 - This recommendation is outside the scope of routine ASME Code updates
 - Requires rulemaking plan and approval by the Commission
- NRC staff is currently discussing the best path forward in pursuing rulemaking for these recommendations.