[7590-01-P]

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

10 CFR Part 50

[NRC-2020-0253]

Advanced Manufacturing Technologies Subtask 2A

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of withdrawal and reissuance; public meeting and request for comment.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) published a draft document entitled "Implementation of Quality Assurance Criteria and 10 CFR 50.59 for Nuclear Power Plant Components Produced Using Advanced Manufacturing Technologies" for public comments in the *Federal Register* on November 30, 2020. The document addresses the application of quality assurance (QA) criteria and NRC's requirements in its regulations regarding, "Changes, tests and experiments," to the implementation of Advanced Manufacturing Technologies (AMT)-fabricated components in U.S. nuclear power plants. This notice withdraws the November 30, 2020, notice in its entirety and reissues the notice to include additional explanatory information, extend the comment period to 60 days, and correct the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) accession number for the draft document.

DATES: The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is withdrawing the proposed rule published November 30, 2020 (85 FR 76489); and reissuance of the draft document takes effect on December 10, 2020. Submit comments on the draft document by February 8, 2021. Comments received after this date will be considered if it is practical to do so, but the NRC is able to ensure consideration only for comments received on or

before this date. The NRC will hold a public meeting as an online webinar. See Section IV. Public Meeting, of this document for additional information.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by any of the following methods (unless this document describes a different method for submitting comments on a specific subject); however, the NRC encourages electronic comment submission through the **Federal Rulemaking Web Site**:

- **Federal Rulemaking Web Site:** Go to https://www.regulations.gov and search for Docket ID **NRC-2020-0253**. Address questions about Docket IDs in Regulations.gov to Jennifer Borges; telephone: 301-287-9127; e-mail: Jennifer.Borges@nrc.gov. For technical questions, contact the individual listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this document.
- **Mail comments to:** Office of Administration, Mail Stop: TWFN-7-A60M, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, ATTN: Program Management, Announcements and Editing Staff.

For additional direction on obtaining information and submitting comments, see "Obtaining Information and Submitting Comments" in the SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION section of this document.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Isaac Anchondo-Lopez, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001; telephone: 817-200-1152; e-mail: Isaac.Anchondo-Lopez@nrc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Obtaining Information and Submitting Comments

A. Obtaining Information

Please refer to Docket ID **NRC-2020-0253** when contacting the NRC about the availability of information for this action. You may obtain publicly available information related to this action by any of the following methods:

- **Federal Rulemaking Web Site:** Go to https://www.regulations.gov and search for Docket ID **NRC-2020-0253**.

- **NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS):** You may obtain publicly available documents online in the ADAMS Public Documents collection at https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html. To begin the search, select "Begin Web-based ADAMS Search." For problems with ADAMS, please contact the NRC's Public Document Room (PDR) reference staff at 1-800-397-4209, at 301-415-4737, or by e-mail to pdr.resource@nrc.gov. The draft document entitled "Implementation of Quality Assurance Criteria and 10 CFR 50.59 for Nuclear Power Plant Components Produced Using Advanced Manufacturing Techniques" can be found by searching for ADAMS Accession No. ML20317A007.

- **Attention**: The PDR, where you may examine and order copies of public documents is currently closed. You may submit your request to the PDR via e-mail at pdr.resource@nrc.gov or call 1-800-397-4209 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. (EST), Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

B. Submitting Comments

The NRC encourages electronic comment submission through the **Federal Rulemaking Web Site** (https://www.regulations.gov). Please include Docket ID **NRC-2020-0253** in your comment submission.

The NRC cautions you not to include identifying or contact information that you do not want to be publicly disclosed in your comment submission. The NRC will post all comment submissions at https://www.regulations.gov as well as enter the comment submissions into ADAMS. The NRC does not routinely edit comment submissions to remove identifying or contact information.

If you are requesting or aggregating comments from other persons for submission to the NRC, then you should inform those persons not to include identifying

or contact information that they do not want to be publicly disclosed in their comment submission. Your request should state that the NRC does not routinely edit comment submissions to remove such information before making the comment submissions available to the public or entering the comment into ADAMS.

II. Additional Information

The NRC is withdrawing Federal Register Document 2020-26272 issued on November 30, 2020 (85 FR 76489), and is reissuing the notice in its entirety to include additional information, extend the comment period to 60 days, and correct the ADAMS Accession Number of the draft document entitled "Implementation of Quality Assurance Criteria and 10 CFR 50.59 for Nuclear Power Plant Components Produced Using Advanced Manufacturing Technologies" (ADAMS Accession No. ML20317A007).

III. Background

The NRC considers AMTs to consist of material processing and component fabrication methods that have not been traditionally used in the U.S. nuclear industry and have not yet received NRC approval through NRC-endorsed codes and standards or the approval of an industry submittal. There are several regulatory paths available to a licensee for utilizing an AMT in a nuclear application, including: (1) development of a Code or Standard that can be incorporated by reference in section 50.55a of chapter I of title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR); (2) selection of an unregulated in-service application; (3) submission of generic technical reports or plant-specific submittals for NRC approval; or (4) implementation of the 10 CFR 50.59, "Changes, tests and experiments," 10 CFR 70.72, "Facility changes and change process," or 10 CFR 72.48, "Changes, tests, and experiments" processes. Industry indicated that plans for the initial installation of AMT-fabricated components would involve the 10 CFR 50.59 process. Therefore, the NRC staff documented in the draft document a description of the processes, consistent with the QA requirements in Appendix B to

10 CFR part 50 and in accordance with 10 CFR 50.59 in order to support the staff's performance of potential inspections of a licensee's implementation of these requirements for AMT-fabricated components.

IV. Specific Considerations

This report documents completion of the staff's initial review of QA criteria and 10 CFR 50.59 requirements for AMT applications at U.S. nuclear power plants. This report does not represent a complete and final analysis of all aspects of QA criteria and 10 CFR 50.59 requirements and guidance that might be applicable to the use of AMT components at U.S. nuclear power plants. This report does not create new regulatory requirements or establish new regulatory positions with respect to the use or manufacture of AMT components for nuclear power plants. The scope of this report is limited to the review of existing requirements and guidance to address AMT components and the consideration of potential regulatory and technical challenges. This report may be subject to future revision, as additional insights and operating experience for use of AMT components are gained.

In its effort to be open and transparent regarding potential processes for the installation of AMT-fabricated components, the NRC is requesting general comments on this document.

V. Public Meeting

The NRC plans to hold a public meeting during the public comment period for this action. A public meeting is planned for January 2021, via online webinar. The public webinar will provide a forum for the NRC staff to discuss the document and for members of the public to provide comments on the document. The NRC does not intend to provide any responses to comments submitted during the public webinar. The public webinar will be noticed on the NRC's public meeting Web site at least 10 calendar days

before the meeting. Members of the public should monitor the NRC's public meeting Web site for additional information about the public webinar at https://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/public-meetings/index.cfm. The NRC will post the notice for the public webinar and may post additional material related to this action to the Federal Rulemaking Web Site at https://www.regulations.gov/ under Docket ID **NRC-2020-0253**. The Federal Rulemaking Web site allows you to receive alerts when changes or additions occur in a docket folder. To subscribe: (1) navigate to the docket folder (**NRC-2020-0253**); (2) click the "Sign up for E-mail Alerts" link; and (3) enter your e-mail address and select how frequently you would like to receive e-mails (daily, weekly, or monthly).

Dated: December 2, 2020.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

/RA/

Anna H. Bradford, Director,
Division of New and Renewed Licenses,
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.