



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

September 23, 2021

Kathryn Hyam, Director  
Nuclear Codes and Standards  
American Society of Mechanical Engineers  
Two Park Avenue  
New York, NY 10016-5990

SUBJECT: ENDORSEMENT OF THE ASME CODE SECTION III, EDITIONS AND  
CODE CASES

REFERENCE: ASME letter dated July 9, 2020, "Endorsement of the ASME Code Section III,  
Editions and Code Cases" (ML20198M559)

Dear Ms. Hyam:

The purpose of this letter is to respond to the referenced American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) letter regarding endorsement of the ASME Code Section III, Editions and Code Cases. In the referenced letter, ASME Section III emphasized that the NRC representatives at the Standards Committee continue the practice of seeking all necessary NRC internal reviews during the development and balloting process because a clear approval or negative vote (as opposed to abstentions) will greatly assist the Committee in its work and provide greater clarity as to whether a Code Case will be considered "noncontroversial." The NRC will continue to adopt this approach for our representation at the Standards Committee.

The letter also expressed strong preference that the Code endorsement should be no later than the publication of the next Edition, which is the two-year cycle that is consistent with our current endorsement process. Also, the letter did not indicate preference of the endorsement vehicle that best achieves the objective of timely endorsement. We appreciate this input and, at this time, are not making any changes to the periodicity or vehicle of endorsement of ASME Section III, Code Editions and Code Cases. However, the process for both code edition and code case endorsement is still under evaluation to consider future enhancements to the endorsement process or to eliminate unnecessary burden. We recognize the interest in this topic and any potential changes to the process will be communicated with the interested stakeholders with an opportunity for public comment.

Thank you for your input and perspective. The NRC appreciates the open dialogue and welcomes future correspondence as the NRC continues to support the development, revision, and use of ASME Codes and Standards and its incorporation by reference in 10 CFR 50.55a. If you have questions or concerns, please contact me at [Louise.Lund@nrc.gov](mailto:Louise.Lund@nrc.gov) or 301-415-0377, or Kamal Manoly at [Kamal.Manoly@nrc.gov](mailto:Kamal.Manoly@nrc.gov) or 301-415-2765.

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Louise Lund, NRC Standards Executive  
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

cc:

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SUBJECT: ENDORSEMENT OF THE ASME CODE SECTION III, EDITIONS AND CODE  
CASES DATED: SEPTEMBER 23, 2021

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