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10 CFR Part 53: Risk-Informed, Technology-Inclusive Regulatory Framework for Advanced Reactors

Comment On: NRC-2019-0062-0012

Preliminary Proposed Rule Language: Risk-Informed, Technology-Inclusive Regulatory Framework for Advanced Reactors

Document: NRC-2019-0062-DRAFT-0191

Comment on FR Doc # 2020-24387

Submitter Information

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Organization: Hybrid Power Technologies LLC

General Comment

Attached is our letter concerning the 10CFR53 NNRC Comment Response Philosophy

Attachments

Hybrid Pwr to NRC ltr Nov 23 2021 re 10CFR53 Comment Response Philosophy

Michael F. Keller
President
Hybrid Power Technologies LLC



November 23, 2021
10CFR53: NRC Comment Response Philosophy

Mr. John Tappert
Director, Division of Rulemaking, Environmental, and Financial Support
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Subject: Hybrid Power Technologies LLC Input on the NRC Rulemaking Plan on, Risk-Informed, Technology-Inclusive Regulatory Framework; Proposed 10CFR53.

Mr. Tappert:

For some time and in numerous correspondence, we have been formally questioned the lack of NRC responses to the numerous comments, questions, and concerns that have been formally submitted by the public and stakeholders over the last year or so. Claims of transparency by the NRC, and in particular in conjunction with the 10CFR53 development effort, are thus far not supported by the actions of the NRC staff.

The Department of Energy (DOE) has recently issued the final environmental assessment for the MARVEL reactor project – REF. (1). To DOE’s credit, every single public comment was formally addressed and made public.

Yet, we find no such apparent intent by the NRC in the matter of the proposed 10CFR53 rulemaking. Considering the exceptional importance of nuclear energy to the nation’s strategic interests, we find the lack of transparency on the part of the NRC as bewildering, highly disturbing, and likely to ultimately scuttle US advanced nuclear reactors. The level of regulatory driven risks and associated costs (i.e. design, licensing, construction and operation) will be simply too high when considering a regulatory agency that ignores both the public and stakeholders.

The NRC would do well to seriously consider the DOE’s approach to transparency.

Regards,

Michael F Keller

Michael F. Keller Professional Engineer – State of Kansas
President
Hybrid Power Technologies LLC

References:

- (1) Final Environmental Assessment of the Micro-reactor Applications Research, Validations, and Evaluation (MARVEL) Project at Idaho National Laboratories.