

Industry / NRC Materials Programs Technical Information Exchange

Ongoing Efforts for 10 CFR 50.55a

David Rudland, Senior Technical Advisor, NRR/DNRL
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10 CFR 50.55a Status

- Rulemaking to incorporate by reference Code Cases published in Supplement 0 to the 2015 Edition through Supplement 1 of the 2019 Edition of the ASME BPV Code, and Code Cases published with the 2020 Edition of the OM Code was published on March 3, 2022
- Rulemaking to incorporate by reference the 2019 Edition of the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel (BPV) Code and the 2020 Edition of the Operation and Maintenance (OM) Code is scheduled to be published in June 2022
- Staff has begun work on the next Code Case rulemaking

ISI/IST Rulemaking Plan and SRM

- SECY-21-0029 (ML20273A284) was issued March 15, 2021
- Request to Commission for approval
 - Rulemaking #1: a rulemaking to amend 10 CFR Part 50.55a to extend the interval of inservice testing (IST) and inservice inspection (ISI) program updates
 - Current 120-month update interval would be extended to 240 months, after updating to the most recent Codes and addenda incorporated by reference in § 50.55a.
 - Rulemaking #2: a **potential** subsequent rulemaking to extend update interval from 240 months to 288 months
- SRM-SECY-21-0029 (ML21312A490) approved staff request for both rulemaking and directed staff to move expeditiously to implement the remaining recommendations in the EMBARK Venture Studio's report

SRM Implementation

- To efficiently implement this SRM, the staff decided to combine Rulemaking #1 with the next standard ASME Code Case rulemaking
 - Next Code Case Rulemaking (RG 1.84 Rev 40, RG 1.147 Rev 21, RG 1.192 Rev 5) began at the end of 2021
- Focus on extending the Code of Record Interval from 10 years to 20 years
 - Clear differentiation between Code of Record Interval and ASME BPV ISI interval (IWA-2430) and the ASME OM Examination and Test Interval (ISTA-3120)

Code Case N-921

- On January 5, 2022, ASME published BPV Code Case N-921 that allows a 12-year ISI interval as an alternative to the required 10-year interval
- The staff has also been informed that the OM Code committee is drafting a similar IST code case
- ASME has requested via letter that Code Case N-921 be included for incorporation by reference in the Rev. 40 ASME Code case rulemaking
- This creates an option for licensee to have either a 10-year or a 12-year ISI/IST interval. To be consistent and aligned that same option needs to be in place for the Code of Record interval

Current Status

- The proposed rule for ASME Code Case rulemaking Rev. 40 is currently scheduled to be published in January 2023
- Because of the possible addition of Code Case N-921, staff is determining how to proceed
- Staff may have a public meeting at the appropriate time

Streamlining ASME Rulemaking

- SRM-21-0029 asked staff to move expeditiously to implement Recommendations 2 and 3 from the NRC EMBARK Venture Studios 50.55a Project (ML20153A752):
 2. Institute direct final rules for unconditionally approved Code cases.
 3. Decrease frequency of ASME Code editions rulemakings.

Note: Due to new and advanced reactors activity on the horizon, the staff has decided against decreasing the frequency of Section III Code edition rulemakings, and by extension will not pursue extending for Section XI or OM Code. The staff expects to achieve savings through enhanced efficiency in ASME rulemaking.
- A Working Group was stood up to develop a plan to implement these two recommendations.

Streamlining ASME Rulemaking

- The staff is still developing an implementation plan, which may include the following:
 1. A new Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) information collection for 10 CFR 50.55a, “Codes and standards,” to avoid schedule and process delays.
 2. Reanalyze the information collection impacts of ASME Code Case rulemakings. As a related activity, develop guidance on how to analyze PRA information collection changes to determine if submission to OMB is required.
 3. Establish annual incorporation of unconditionally approved ASME code cases through the direct final rule (DFR) process.
 4. Combine the biennial rulemakings for ASME code editions and conditionally approved code cases.
- Collectively, this plan increases the frequency of endorsement of unconditionally approved Code Cases, coupled with enhanced efficiency for ASME rulemaking processes.