



THIRD WAY

June 23, 2022

Commissioners
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Subject: Comment from Third Way on Letter Submitted by the American Nuclear Society (ANS) and the Breakthrough Institute (BTI) to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission on Developing a “Risk-Informed, Technology-Inclusive Regulatory Framework for Advanced Reactors” (Regulation Identifier Number RIN-3150-AK31; Docket ID NRC-NRC-2019-0062)

Dear Chairman Hanson and Commissioners Baran and Wright,

The Commission recently received a letter dated June 15, 2022, from the American Nuclear Society (ANS) and the Breakthrough Institute, urging the Commission to direct the NRC staff to engage stakeholders through a multi-day workshop or series of workshops related to developing the risk-informed, technology-inclusive framework for advanced reactors in the proposed Part 53 rule. Third Way supports the proposed approach and believes it has the potential for achieving closer consensus on the content of a proposed rule, thereby making the required notice-and-comment process that follows more effective and efficient.

We applaud the Commission’s objective of adopting a final rule prior to the statutory deadline set by the Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act (NEIMA). Moreover, we acknowledge the extraordinary effort that the staff has applied to development of the new Part 53. The staff has received significant comments from industry and other stakeholders regarding the approaches taken in the versions of Part 53 released for comment to date. Feedback led the staff to propose an additional “Framework B” to supplement the original approach developed for Part 53. Nonetheless, there appear to remain some significant gaps between the staff’s approach and the views of its effectiveness by various stakeholders.

Although the staff has continued to offer opportunities for comment on its latest proposals, a more collaborative approach through holding a workshop or series of workshops on Framework B could help achieve a closer consensus. As ANS and Breakthrough Institute suggest, such an approach would “make room at the table for all stakeholders to explore and formulate approaches in a collectively informed fashion with the goal of enabling deployment of safe advanced nuclear reactors in this decade.”

We believe that the workshop approach is in the spirit of transformation that the NRC has pursued over the past few years to enhance and modernize its regulatory processes. We encourage the Commission to move swiftly to adopt the proposed approach.

Sincerely,

Stephen Burns

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NRCExecSec Resource

From: Alan Ahn <aahn@thirdway.org>
Sent: Thursday, June 23, 2022 4:02 PM
To: NRCExecSec Resource
Cc: Josh Freed; Lindsey Walter; Ryan Norman; Stephen Burns; Nakanishi, Tony; Krsek, Robert; Walker, Shakur
Subject: [External_Sender] Letter to NRC Commissioners on BTI-ANS Letter Re: Request for Workshop(s) on 10 CFR Part 53 Framework B
Attachments: June 23, 2022 - Third Way Letter on Part 53 Framework B.pdf

Dear Madame Secretary,

The subject letter is attached. We humbly request that the letter be made publicly available on ADAMS.

Thank you for your time and assistance.

Sincerely,
Alan

Alan Ahn

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