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

Comment On: NRC-2019-0062-0310

Risk-Informed, Technology-Inclusive Regulatory Framework for Advanced Reactors

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Comment (000) from Michael Keller on Risk-Informed, Technology-Inclusive Regulatory Framework for Advanced Reactors

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General Comment

See attached for initial impressions.

Attachments

Hybrid PWR to NRC Dec 7 2024 General Impressions 10CFR53

Michael F. Keller
President
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December 7, 2024
Regulations.gov NRC-2019-0062-0310

Mr. Christopher Regan
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: Initial Impressions - Review of Proposed 10CFR53

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is currently requesting comments on the proposed risk-informed, performance-based, and technology-inclusive regulatory framework for commercial nuclear plants known as Part 53. We have reviewed the over 800 pages involved with the proposed regulation. Our initial impressions follow:

1. The NRC Staff is apparently unable to move-on from the heavily overly prescriptive approaches of the past and accept Congress's direction for modernization and increased regulatory efficiency.
2. The proposed regulation is significantly more complex and difficult to comprehend than the existing 10CFR50.
3. Many of the manufactured proposed new requirements are likely not supported by law.
4. The 10CFR53 development efforts of the last several years have been an exceptionally inefficient use of NRC, industry, and public resources.

The defects are significant and numerous. In current form, there is no likelihood that 10CFR53 will be utilized to license advanced reactors. The inevitable result will be the demise of the U.S. nuclear industry as a direct result of massive and unnecessary overregulation rendering new reactors as grossly non-competitive.

In general, the most efficient remedy lies with modification of the existing 10CFR50 to remove elements specifically germane to the current fleet of water reactors while amplifying the regulation to simply and clearly reflect recent law. We, and many others, have previously and consistently formally made this recommendation.

We will provide further comments that may meaningfully help improve the proposed 10CFR53. However, we doubt the regulation can be salvaged absent a significant re-adjustment of the staff's mindset relative to embracing Congress's clear directions.

Regards,

Michael F Keller

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A small business of the state of Kansas developing patented advanced reactor energy plants.

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