



RIC 2008

Emerging Issues: Materials and Mechanical PTS Rulemaking

Matthew A. Mitchell, Chief
Vessels & Internals Integrity Branch
Office on Nuclear Reactor Regulation
March 11, 2008

1



Background

- In October 2007, the NRC published the proposed 10 CFR 50.61a for public comment
- 10 CFR 50.61a – a voluntary rule to be used by licensee's exceeding the screening criteria in 10 CFR 50.61
- 10 CFR 50.61a includes entry conditions that a licensee must meet to utilize the voluntary rule

2



Public Comments

- The staff received several sets of comments from the nuclear industry
- The most significant comments regarded:
(1) evaluation of RPV embrittlement, and
(2) determination of RPV flaw distributions
- The staff is currently working to resolve the public comments

3



Path Forward

- The staff expects to have addressed the public comments by the end of April
- A decision will then be made regarding whether an additional round of public comment is required
- The staff is, however, aware of the needs of certain facilities and is striving to have the final rule published in a timely manner.

4
