

Mr. Joe F. Colvin
President
Nuclear Energy Institute
1776 I Street, NW
Suite 400
Washington, D.C. 20006-3708

Dear Mr. Colvin:

Thank you for your letter dated January 19, 2000, to Chairman Meserve, providing industry input on what sections of 10 CFR Part 50 the industry is interested in having NRC focus on in our activity to risk-inform the reactor regulations. As you stated in your letter, the NRC staff efforts on risk-informing the technical requirements of Part 50 should focus first on 50.46 and 50.44.

Currently, the staff is evaluating the technical requirements associated with (1) 10 CFR 50.44, *Standards for Combustible Gas Control System in Light-Water-Cooled Power Reactors*; (2) special treatment rules; and (3) 10 CFR 50.46, *Acceptance Criteria for Emergency Core Cooling Systems for Light-Water Nuclear Power Reactors*, including Appendix K to Part 50. In fact, preliminary results of the staff's efforts regarding 50.44, special treatment rules, and preliminary plans for risk-informing 50.46 will be discussed at the upcoming February 24-25, 2000 public workshop on risk-informing the technical requirements of 10 CFR Part 50.

The success of the effort to risk-inform the technical requirements of 10 CFR Part 50 depends in part on the level of stakeholder input that the staff receives, particularly industry information on specific areas where there is a potential to improve safety, where there is believed to be excessive conservatism in the Part 50 regulations or their implementing documents, or where there is believed to be unnecessary burden on the industry. Accordingly, it is important to maintain communication among the industry, the staff, and other stakeholders. To facilitate this communication, the staff has conducted, and will continue to conduct, public meetings and workshops, and has established a web site for stakeholder feedback and input. The NEI survey included with your letter is a welcome step in this process of communication.

Regarding the other NRC regulations identified in the NEI survey as potential candidates for change, the staff, as part of the effort described in SECY 99-264, is preparing a framework and associated criteria for risk-informing the regulations, and selecting and prioritizing potential candidates for change. The framework and associated criteria will also be discussed at the upcoming public workshop. Industry and other stakeholder input during these discussions will be of great benefit.

If you have any other questions please do not hesitate to call. The staff contact for risk-informing the technical requirements to 10 CFR Part 50 is Ms. Mary Drouin, who can be reached at (301) 415-6675, or mxd@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

Ashok C. Thadani, Director
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

CF	Y	N
PDR	Y	N

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* Previously concurred.

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