

①

**SIEMENS**

DOCKET NUMBER  
PETITION RULE PRM 50-68  
(65FR1829)

DOCKETED  
10/10

February 16, 2000  
NRC:00:011

'00 FEB 22 P4:23

Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
ATTN: Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff  
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

OFFICE  
OF  
ADMINISTRATION

**Petition for Rulemaking (Docket No. PRM-50-68)**

Siemens Power Corporation generally supports the petition for rulemaking made by Mr. Bob Christie. The proposed revision to 10 CFR 50.44 has several major benefits over the existing regulations.

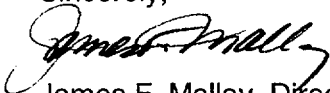
- It greatly simplifies the language and requirements of the regulation while retaining an equivalent level of safety.
- It eliminates the convoluted language that was necessary to address plants that were in various stages of the licensing process in the early 1980's.
- It eliminates having to consider additional sources of hydrogen, such as radiolytic decomposition and corrosion, which are typically shown to be of minimal interest.
- It recognizes the consistent results of risk analyses performed for numerous nuclear power plants.
- It is consistent with the NRC's increased reliance on the results of risk evaluations.
- It eliminates potential safety hazards, including the potential for distracting operators during events in which hydrogen recombiners have limited application.

The "strawman" statement is troubling from the standpoint that such a finding ("detrimental to public health") would appear to be subject to Part 21 requirements and should not require an interim policy statement.

The proposed section 50.44(c) does not explicitly address the matter of the structural integrity of the primary containment, which differs from the existing section 50.44(c) (3) (iv). However, the proposed revision of Criterion 41 of 10 CFR 50, Appendix A, appears to address this subject adequately. Also in the suggested Criterion 41, the qualitative phrase, "high probability," may not be adequately definitive for a licensee to demonstrate compliance. It may be advisable to tie this requirement to a plant-specific risk assessment.

SPC appreciates the opportunity to comment on this petition for rulemaking.

Sincerely,



James F. Mallay, Director  
Regulatory Affairs

**Siemens Power Corporation**

2101 Horn Rapids Road  
Richland, WA 99352

Tel: (509) 375-8100  
Fax: (509) 375-8402

DS10