

Dr. George E. Apostolakis, Chairman  
Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

January 25, 2002

SUBJECT: PROPOSED RULEMAKING FOR RISK-INFORMED REVISIONS TO 10 CFR  
50.44, "STANDARDS FOR COMBUSTIBLE GAS CONTROL SYSTEM IN  
LIGHT-WATER-COOLED POWER REACTORS"

Dear Dr. Apostolakis:

In a letter dated December 12, 2001, the Committee stated that the proposed rulemaking for risk-informed revisions to 10 CFR 50.44 would provide more effective and efficient regulation to deal with combustible gases in containment. The staff appreciates the Committee's encouraging remarks and positive views on the staff's efforts on this rulemaking.

In addition, the Committee recommended that the proposed specification for the combustible gas source term for boiling water reactor (BWR) Mark III and pressurized water reactor (PWR) ice condenser containment be included in the draft regulatory guide (DG-1117) instead of being retained in the proposed rule. With the Commission's approval, the staff will issue the proposed rule for public review and comment. The staff will continue to consider this recommendation during our consideration of stakeholder comments and suggestions.

The staff appreciates the Committee's interest in the staff efforts on this rulemaking. If the Committee needs further assistance, please call Mr. Anthony Markley at 415-3165 or Mr. Steven West at 415-1220.

Sincerely,

**/RA by William F. Kane Acting For/**

William D. Travers  
Executive Director  
for Operations

cc: Chairman Meserve  
Commissioner Dicus  
Commissioner Diaz  
Commissioner McGaffigan  
Commissioner Merrifield  
SECY

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