

May 15, 2002

Mr. Robert H. Leyse
P.O. Box 2850
Sun Valley, ID 83353

Dear Mr. Leyse:

I am writing to inform you of the status of four petitions for rulemaking that you submitted concerning the effects of crud deposition and fouling on the performance of heat-transfer surfaces in nuclear power plants.

The first two petitions, Docket Nos. PRM-50-73 and PRM-50-73A, were received by the NRC on September 3, 2001, and November 4, 2001, respectively. They were merged together and evaluated by the staff, and a recommendation to the Commission has been written. A letter will be sent to you regarding disposition of the petitions as soon as the Commission has voted on the staff recommendation.

The third petition for rulemaking, Docket No. PRM-50-76, dated May 1, 2002, requested changes to the regulations and guidance on evaluating emergency core cooling system (ECCS) performance. In the staff review process, a decision was made to request review of the petition by the NRC Office of Research (RES) relative to ongoing work on ECCS performance. The Program Office staff will develop recommendations to the Commission upon completion of the RES review.

With respect to the fourth petition for rulemaking, Docket No. PRM-50-78, dated September 2, 2002, requesting that fouling of heat transfer surfaces in nuclear power plants be addressed by rule changes, a staff working group has been convened and analysis of the petition is ongoing. The target for providing a recommendation to the Petition Review Board is September 2003.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact me at 301-415-3883.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Alan K. Roecklein
Policy and Rulemaking Program
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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P.O. Box 2850
Sun Valley, ID 83353

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Alan K. Roecklein
Policy and Rulemaking Program
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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