

The American Society for Nondestructive Testing, Inc.



17 May 2011

Ms. Michele G. Evans, Director
Division of Component Integrity
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Mail Stop 9H6 One White Flint North
11555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852

Subject: Letter from NRC to ASME on NDE Issues

Reference: Letter from Michelle G. Evans, NRC, to Kevin Ennis, ASME, dated January 12, 2010, Subject: Issues Relating to the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code

Dear Ms. Evans:

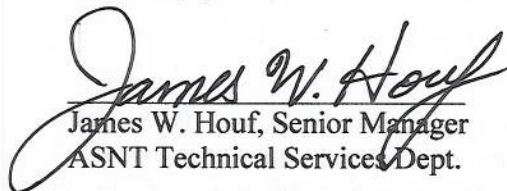
While the letter referenced above was not directed to us, it was made available to the public on the ADAMS website and ASNT was mentioned in association with the issue under review. We are concerned that the letter may be wrongly interpreted as implying a shortfall regarding ASNT examinations. ASNT strongly disagrees with any such allegation, and wishes to provide further assurances to the NRC that ASNT certification examinations are developed, conducted and graded with the utmost care and under the direction of highly experienced NDT subject matter experts in order to ensure the validity and reliability of the examinations in the assessment of the candidates' comprehension of the relevant NDT technology.

ASNT's examinations are developed by NDT experts with extensive knowledge and hands-on experience, are very challenging (exceeding industry requirements for NDT certification) and are developed and graded using long-time well-established principles that are widely recognized as being both demanding and highly rigorous. In fact, and importantly, ASNT's certification programs are the only NDT certification programs independently accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) as compliant with the requirements of the international standard ISO/IEC 17024, *Conformity assessment – General requirements for bodies operating certification of persons*.

We trust that if there were any NRC comments or concerns regarding ASNT's certification processes, they were resolved during your internal review. However, if there are open issues regarding our certification processes, please let me know immediately so that we may provide the necessary information to resolve them and provide closure to this issue.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,


James W. Houf, Senior Manager
ASNT Technical Services Dept.

cc: ASNT Executive Director