

August 25, 2011

Mr. J. Brian Hall
ASTM E10.02 Subcommittee Chair
Research and Technology Operations
Westinghouse Electric Company
1340 Beulah Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15235-5082

Dear Mr. Hall:

Thank you for your letter on behalf of American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) Committee E10.02 dated June 30, 2011. Your correspondence helps the staff of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) in its efforts to update Title 10, Section 50 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR 50), Appendix H to reflect the latest international consensus standards, particularly ASTM E185-10 and E2215-10. The NRC welcomes this initiative to incorporate and better manage the requirements for the design of new plant programs and the testing of capsules in existing plant programs into its regulations.

This initiative is consistent with NRC's practice to actively engage members of the public and standards development organizations (SDO) in rulemaking activities. As you are aware, the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-113) requires Federal agencies, including the NRC, to consult and participate with SDOs when developing consensus codes and standards. Currently, NRC staff from the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES), Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR), and Office of New Reactors (NRO) are working together to update 10 CFR 50 Appendix H, including incorporating by reference updates to consensus standards. The staff will consider your request as part of its efforts.

We currently anticipate publication of a revision to 10 CFR 50 Appendix H in the 2014 timeframe with a significant public comment period prior to final publication. To improve the relevance and transparency of our work and to ensure that we are aware of the views of all stakeholders, we are holding a series of public meetings on the topic of Reactor Pressure Vessel Integrity. The most recent meeting, which you attended, was held on Tuesday, July 26, 2011 at NRC Headquarters in Rockville, MD. It would be helpful if you and/or representatives of ASTM Committee E10.02 would attend the next meeting (scheduled for September 15, 2011) and make a presentation to the NRC staff that provides additional details of the changes you outlined in your letter. Please contact Gary Stevens of my staff (gary.stevens@nrc.gov, 301-251-7569) to schedule your presentation.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Michael J. Case, Director
Division of Engineering
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

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