Two Park Avenue
New York, NY
10016-5990 U.S.A.
tel 1.212.591.8500
fax 1.212.591.8501
www.asme.org

May 13, 2015

Mr. Mark D. Lombard, Director
Division of Spent Fuel Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Mail Stop TWB-05-B01M
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Subject: ASME Code, Section XI Actions to Address Metallic Pressure-retaining Storage Canisters and Transfer Casks

References:

1. NRC letter from Mr. Mark D. Lombard, Director, Division of Spent Fuel Management, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, dated March 26, 2015.

Dear Sir:

The purpose of this letter is to communicate actions taken by ASME to address the request for the development of requirements for metallic pressure-retaining storage canisters and transfer casks, as discussed in your letter dated March 26, 2015.

In January 2015, Al Csontos (NRC) made a presentation to the ASME Section XI Executive Committee indicating the importance for the industry the need to have a consensus process develop the inservice inspection requirements for spent fuel canisters. The ASME Section XI Executive Committee approved the formation of a Task Group to develop those inservice inspection requirements.

Dry storage systems for spent nuclear fuel include pressure retaining storage canisters and transfer casks. As pressure retaining items, they are addressed in Section III, Division 3 of the ASME B&PV Code as “Storage Containments” and “Transportation Containments,” respectively.

The charter of the Standards Committee on Nuclear Inservice Inspection was changed to incorporate the need to address the integrity of spent fuel storage and transportation containments. The first meeting of the Task Group “ISI of Spent Fuel Storage and Transportation Containments” was held in Colorado Springs, April 2015. This kick-off meeting was well attended, with folks from all aspects of the industry. A Chair and Secretary were identified, with many of those in attendance volunteering to participate in the Task Group. A Charter and membership for the Task Group were finalized and subsequently approved by the Administrative Committee of the BPV XI Standards Committee.

The first meeting included presentations again by Al Csontos (NRC) and a great deal of discussions on the importance of the need for these requirements. The next meeting of the Task Group will be held during the August 2015 Code Meeting in San Francisco, CA. The

emphasis of this Task Group Meeting will be to get presentations from each Spent Fuel Canister Manufacturer so that the group can understand the different types of designs. EPRI is also expected to make presentations on the current status of canister inspections and development of inspection techniques. In addition, a format for a Code Case was developed that the Task Group can complete with the specifics needed to address the requirements for inservice inspection.

We appreciate the request made and look forward to working closely with your staff in the development of these requirements.

If you have any questions, please contact me or direct them to Mr. Ryan Crane, Nuclear Codes and Standards by telephone at (212) 591-7004 or by e-mail (craner@asme.org) and thank you for bringing this issue to ASME.

Very Truly Yours,

Ralph Hill III, Vice President
Nuclear Codes and Standards
hillr@asme.org

cc: G.L. Stevens, USNRC Research *Gary.Stevens@nrc.gov*
Aladar A. Csontos, USNRC, Chief, Renewals and Materials Branch
ASME Standards Committee on Nuclear Inservice Inspection