



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

January 16, 2020

Richard D. Porco
Chair, ASME Board on Nuclear Codes and Standards
American Society of Mechanical Engineers
Two Park Avenue
New York, NY 10016

SUBJECT: NRC STAFF PARTICIPATION IN ASME PLANT SYSTEMS DESIGN
STANDARD DEVELOPMENT

Dear Mr. Porco:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff, I am responding to your letter dated August 12, 2019, regarding the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME)'s newly-chartered committee to develop a Plant Systems Design (PSD) standard.

The NRC staff understands from your letter and subsequent discussions at the August 14, 2019, NRC-ASME management meeting that the PSD standard will be technology neutral with an initial focus on new nuclear plant designs. The NRC has been tasked with being prepared to support the review of future, non-light-water reactor design certifications and other licensing applications. The existence of robust and comprehensive rules for design, endorsed by the NRC for use by prospective non-light-water reactor vendors, would potentially improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the NRC's review process. Accordingly, the NRC staff believes that ASME's objectives for the PSD standard align with this tasking.

The NRC staff has been participating in the PSD standard committee meetings to date and is pleased that ASME views the current level of participation as adequate. I request that you inform the NRC staff if these needs change in the future. The NRC staff also intends to monitor the activities of the committee to ensure that they remain aligned with the NRC's mission and current priorities.

Mr. Kamal Manoly is the NRC staff's lead representative on the PSD standard committee. Should you have any questions, you may contact him at (301) 415-2765 or Kamal.Manoly@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Louise Lund
NRC Standards Executive
Office of Nuclear Regulatory
Research

SUBJECT: NRC STAFF PARTICIPATION IN ASME PLANT SYSTEMS DESIGN
STANDARD DEVELOPMENT

cc: See next page

DISTRIBUTION:

D. Rudland, NRR
P. Hahn, NRR
M. Hayes, NRR
C. Ning, NRR
A. Zoulis, NRR
C. Ashley, NRR
R. Lukes, NRR
M. Benson, RES
R. Iyengar, RES
R. Roche-Rivera, RES

**ADAMS Package Accession Nos.: ML19303C306, (Incoming) ML19283A223,
(Response) ML19303C307**

OFFICE	PM:RES/DE/CIB	NRC/DEX	BC: RES/DE/CIB	D:NRR/DEX	D:RES/DE
NAME	MHomiack	KManoly	JPoehler(A)	EBenner	LLund
DATE	10/31/2019	11/04/2019	11/24/2019	12/27/2019	1/16/2020

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY