



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

Mr. James Krippes, P.E.
4780 Velasquez Pl
Pensacola, FL 32504

Dear Mr. Krippes:

Thank you for your letter of October 1, 1996. I am responding to your letter because I am acting for Dr. Sheron during an interim reorganization. My staff and I are always interested in gaining additional insight from experience with fastener thread gaging.

I note you are a member of the ASME B1 committee. Members of my staff will be working with the ASME B1 committee modifying the ASME B1 standards to clarify and update them. Because you raised several important issues in your letter, we suggest you also submit your letter directly to the ASME B1 committee for further consideration and action.

My staff has performed extensive reviews of fastener thread gaging systems, fastener design, operating experience, and risks associated with fastener failures in the nuclear industry. Based on these reviews, we have concluded that current industry practices, including the use of the System 21 gaging system provide an acceptable level of safety for nuclear power plants. However, we also concluded that it would be beneficial to update and clarify existing codes and standards. This conclusion is also supported by the ASME Center for Research and Technology Development which completed a study in January 1996, with the issuance of the report "Screw-Thread Gaging Systems for Determining Conformance to Thread Standards." The report concluded that (1) current standards pertaining to threaded fasteners should be revised to ensure that they are clear and consistent, (2) no data currently exists in the open literature that describes the relationship between thread tolerance and performance, and (3) when properly used, current screw-thread gaging standards are satisfactory for their intended use.

If you have any additional comments or questions, feel free to contact Dr. James A. Davis of my staff at (301) 415-2713.

Sincerely,

Gus C. Lainas, Acting Director
Division of Engineering
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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Mr. James Krippes, P.E.
4780 Velasquez Pl
Pensacola, FL 32504

Dear Mr. Krippes:

Thank you for your letter you sent me on October 1, 1996. My staff and I are always interested in gaining additional insight on experience with fastener thread gaging. Your experiences are of particular interest to us because you are "in the trenches," working with thread gaging equipment on a continuing basis.

I assume that you are a member of the ASME B1 committee. Members of my staff will be working with the ASME B1 committee modifying the ASME B1 standards to clarify and update them, since, as you pointed out, some parts of the standards are more than 100 years old. My staff and I look forward to working with you in this effort.

Sincerely,

Brian W. Sheron, Acting Associate Director
for Technical Review
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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