



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

OCT 23 1978

The Honorable Gary Hart, Chairman
Subcommittee on Nuclear Regulation
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Enclosed for your information are copies of a notice of effective rule-making to amend 10 CFR Part 50. The purpose of the amendments is to clarify the Commission's original intent in regard to General Design Criterion 50, "Containment Design Basis," of Appendix A to Part 50 and to provide a new § 50.44 to specify standards for combustible gas control systems.


The effective amendments require the applicant or licensee to show that a combustible gas mixture would not form in the containment, or that if such a situation should occur, it would not affect the plant's safety functions. If neither of these conditions can be shown, inerting of containment will be required by the amendments.

The notice of proposed rulemaking was published in the Federal Register (41 FR 46167) on October 21, 1976, for public comment for a period of 60 days. The effective rule reflects consideration of public comments, but retains the original intent of the proposed rule.

The amendments are being transmitted to the Office of the Federal Register and will be made effective 30 days following publication.

Copies of a public announcement we plan to issue on this matter are also enclosed.

Sincerely,


Robert B. Minogue, Director
Office of Standards Development

Enclosures:

1. Notice of effective rulemaking
to amend 10 CFR Part 50
2. Public announcement on the
amendment to require inerting
of light water reactor containments

cc: Senator James A. McClure

7810310193

MAILING LIST

The Honorable Gary Hart, Chairman
Subcommittee on Nuclear Regulation
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

cc: Senator James McClure

The Honorable Morris K. Udall, Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and the Environment
Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

cc: Representative Robert Bauman

The Honorable John D. Dingell, Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Power
Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

cc: Representative Clarence J. Brown

OCT 23 1978

bcc: Central files Y. S. Huang, NRR
SD RD, RF W. Butler, NRR
EMSB SJ, RD, C G. Lainas, NRR
L. Gossick, EDO C. Grimes, NRR
J. Felton, ADM B. Buckley, NRR
M. Malsch, ELD
E. Pleasant, SECY
H. Denton, NRR
R. Minogue, SD
R. Smith, SD
G. Arlotto, SD
W. Morrison, SD
J. Norberg, SD
M. Fleishman, SD

The Honorable Gary Hart, Chairman
Subcommittee on Nuclear Regulation
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

PDR
OCA

Enclosed for your information are copies of a notice of effective rulemaking to amend 10 CFR Part 50. The purpose of the amendments is to clarify the Commission's original intent in regard to General Design Criterion 50, "Containment Design Basis," of Appendix A to Part 50 and to provide a new § 50.44 to specify standards for combustible gas control systems.

The effective amendments require the applicant or licensee to show that a combustible gas mixture would not form in the containment, or that if such a situation should occur, it would not affect the plant's safety functions. If neither of these conditions can be shown, inerting of containment will be required by the amendments.

The notice of proposed rulemaking was published in the Federal Register (41 FR 46157) on October 21, 1976, for public comment for a period of 60 days. The effective rule reflects consideration of public comments, but retains the original intent of the proposed rule.

The amendments are being transmitted to the Office of the Federal Register and will be made effective 30 days following publication.

Copies of a public announcement we plan to issue on this matter are also enclosed.

Sincerely,

Original signed by R. G. Smith

7810310195

Robert B. Minogue, Director
Office of Standards Development

Enclosures:

1. Notice of effective rulemaking to amend 10 CFR Part 50
2. Public announcement on the amendment to require inerting of light water reactor containments

Identical letters sent to attached Mailing List.

EM 526-1

CRESS NL OFFICE	Senator James A. Buckley	SD:GES	SD:ES	SD:DD	SD:DIR
500680	SD:EMSB	W. Morrison	G. Arlotto	R. Smith	R. Minogue
SURNAME	J. Huang: cl	J. Norberg			
9/1/78	DATED 10/1/78	10/1/78	10/1/78	10/1/78	10/1/78

MAILING LIST

The Honorable Gary Hart, Chairman
Subcommittee on Nuclear Regulation
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

cc: Senator James McClure

The Honorable Morris K. Udall, Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and the Environment
Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

cc: Representative Robert Bauman

The Honorable John D. Dingell, Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Power
Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

cc: Representative Clarence J. Brown