



SECRETARY

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

Date

Kurt T. Schaefer
38845 Godfrey Place
Fremont, CA 94536

Dear Kurt Schaefer:

I am responding to your petition for rulemaking (PRM) submitted to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on July 20, 2015 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML15278A208), as supplemented by letter dated August 31, 2015 (ADAMS Accession No. ML15278A211).

In the PRM, you request that the NRC amend its regulations in Section 50.2, "Definitions," of Part 50 of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* to add a set of specific and prescriptive criteria for determining which structures, systems, and components and functions are important to safety. You stated that, while the current regulatory framework can be used to determine which structures, systems, and components (SSCs) are classified as "safety-related," it does not provide a set of criteria to determine which non-safety-related SSCs are "important to safety." You indicated that there is very little agreement about which non-safety-related SSCs should be categorized as important to safety.

The NRC docketed the petition as PRM-50-112 on September 4, 2015. The NRC published a notice of docketing and request for public comment in the *Federal Register* on January 6, 2016 (81 FR 410). The comment period closed March 21, 2016, and the NRC received 12 public comment submissions on the petition. The public comment submissions are available at <https://www.regulations.gov> under Docket ID NRC-2015-0213.

The NRC has reviewed your petition and the public comments. For the reasons provided in the enclosed notice, the NRC is denying PRM-50-112.

The enclosed notice, which will be published in the *Federal Register*, further explains the reasons for the denial. The docket for this petition is closed. You may direct any questions about this matter to Martha Barillas by calling 301-415-2760 or by sending an email to Martha.Barillas@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

Annette L. Vietti-Cook
Secretary of the Commission

Enclosure:
Federal Register Notice