

Proposed Rules

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains notices to the public of the proposed issuance of rules and regulations. The purpose of these notices is to give interested persons an opportunity to participate in the rule making prior to the adoption of the final rules.

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

10 CFR Part 50

RIN 3150-A101

Alternate Fracture Toughness Requirements for Protection Against Pressurized Thermal Shock Events; Reopening of Comment Period for Information Collection

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Proposed rule: Reopening of comment period for information collection.

SUMMARY: The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is reopening the comment period specific to the information collection aspects of a proposed rule published on October 3, 2007 (72 FR 56275), that would amend NRC's regulations to provide updated fracture toughness requirements for protection against pressurized thermal shock (PTS) events for pressurized water reactor (PWR) pressure vessels. The comment period for comments specific to the information collection aspects of the proposed rule, closed on November 2, 2007.

DATES: The comment period for comments specific to the information collection aspects of the proposed rule is reopened and now closes on December 17, 2007. Comments received after this date will be considered if it is practical to do so, but the Commission is able to ensure consideration only for comments received before this date.

ADDRESSES: Send comments on any aspect of the proposed information collections, including suggestions for reducing the burden and on the issues mentioned in the October 3, 2007, rulemaking, by December 17, 2007, to the Records and FOIA/Privacy Services Branch (T-5 F52), U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, or by Internet electronic mail to INFOCOLLECTS@NRC.GOV and to the

Desk Officer, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, NEOP-10202, (3150-0011), Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Harry Tovmassian, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, telephone (301) 415-3092, e-mail hst@nrc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On October 3, 2007 (72 FR 56275), the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) published for public comment a proposed rule that would amend its regulations to provide updated fracture toughness requirements for protection against PTS events for PWR pressure vessels. The proposed rule would provide new PTS requirements based on updated analysis methods. This action is desirable because the existing requirements are based on unnecessarily conservative probabilistic fracture mechanics analysis. This action would reduce regulatory burden for licensees, specifically those licensees that expect to exceed the existing requirements before the expiration of their licenses, while maintaining adequate safety. These new requirements would be voluntarily used by any PWR licensee as an alternative to complying with the existing requirements.

The NRC received several requests from public stakeholders to extend the comment period for the information collection aspects of the proposed rule. The comment period for the information collection is being reopened and now closes on December 17, 2007.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 15th day of November 2007.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Annette L. Vietti-Cook,

Secretary of the Commission.

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

10 CFR Part 71

Regulations for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material; Notice of Document Availability and Request for Comments

AGENCY: U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of document availability and request for comments on draft 2009 revision to International Atomic Energy Agency Regulations.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is seeking public comment on a draft revision of the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) "Regulations for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material" (TS-R-1), which is scheduled for publication in 2009. The NRC and the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) jointly will be submitting comments on the draft document to the IAEA. We are requesting input from the public to assist in developing the U.S. comments.

DATES: Comments on the proposed 2009 revision of TS-R-1 will be accepted by the NRC until January 4, 2008. Comments received after this date will be considered if it is practical to do so, however we are only able to assure consideration for comments received on or before this date.

ADDRESSES: Members of the public are invited and encouraged to submit written comments to Michael T. Lesar, Chief, Rulemaking, Directives and Editing Branch, Mail Stop T6-D59, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001. Comments may be submitted by electronic mail to: nrcprep@nrc.gov. Comments may also be hand delivered to 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland 20852, between 7:45 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. on Federal workdays.

Copies of comments received may be viewed at the NRC's Public Document Room, One White Flint North, Public File Area O1-F21, 11555 Rockville Pike (First Floor), Rockville, Maryland.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michele M. Sampson, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, USNRC, Washington, DC 20555-0001, telephone: (301) 492-3292; e-mail: mxs14@nrc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

The IAEA periodically revises TS-R-1 to reflect new information and accumulated experience. The DOT is the U.S. competent authority before the IAEA for radioactive material transportation matters. The NRC provides technical support to the DOT in this regard, particularly with regard to Type B and fissile packages.