

ASME Liaison Report

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ASME Special Committee on Standards Planning

The ASME OM Special Committee on Standards Planning met in June 2010. The Committee is in the process of reviewing all currently published ASME OM (Operations & Maintenance) Parts, Guides, and Standards to determine:

- If they are still useful
- If the requirements are current
- If the requirements are outdated, is it worth updating them?
- In not, what other industry standards can replace them?

This review activity is on-going with a desire to ensure that current standards are meeting current user's needs, are supportive of new construction occurring internationally, and are supportive of the expected new construction domestically.

IEEE generally ensures that standards remain current and supportive of user needs by ensuring the standards are assessed on a 5-year interval. It is important to be self-critical during these reviews and to address the questions that ASME is asking during these review processes.

Committee on Nuclear Risk Management (CNRM)

ASME's Committee on Nuclear Risk Management is assessing possible new standards to establish consistent approaches on integrated decision-making panels, use of expert panels, and approaches for practical programmatic applications using risk insights. Some of the CNRM focus is shifting toward practical standard development that will aid the practitioner in effective implementation of available risk tools.

This is an area for IEEE to monitor. The approaches established in these ASME standards may be useful for future IEEE consideration and inclusion in future IEEE standards.

Nuclear Risk Management Coordinating Committee (NRMCC)

ASME and the American Nuclear Society (ANS) head a joint industry oversight group to better align various Standards Development Organizations (SDOs) when developing risk-related standards within the nuclear industry. IEEE's representative on this industry group is the NPEC Vice Chairman (just transitioned to George Ballassi). This committee continues engaging to strategically align the messages and approaches in scoped standards, and the NPEC Vice Chairman communicates the IEEE insights during these meetings.

Other

Much of ASME's focus is on validating current standards to support new nuclear construction and to develop new standards to support this new construction where deficiencies in existing standards are noted. ASME is also focused on the next generation of nuclear plant development and developing the necessary standards to support these new technology applications. It appears that most of the current standards are supportive of the expected and planned construction efforts, but this review continues to proactively assess the needs of the industry to ensure that necessary standards are available when required.