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ADJUDICATIONS



VIRGINIA POWER

June 19, 2000

GL00-024

Secretary  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555-0001  
Attn: Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff

DOCKET NUMBER  
PROPOSED RULE PR CHI  
(65FR26772)

To Whom It May Concern:

**REVISED HIGH-LEVEL GUIDELINES FOR  
PERFORMANCE-BASED ACTIVITIES**

Virginia Power appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed revision to high-level guidelines for developing a more performance-based regulatory framework. A Request for Comments appeared in the Federal Register, Vol. 65, No. 90, on Tuesday, May 9, 2000, pages 26772-26776. We offer the following comments:

1. The Federal Register Notice states that, "The guidelines, which will be used to identify and assess performance-based activities, will only be applied to new initiatives." Screening new regulations to determine if performance-based treatment is warranted, is appropriate; however, existing regulations should also be screened to determine, as a minimum, the logical candidates for performance-based rulemaking, even if the actual pursuit of the rulemaking is left up to the industry to effect based on need.
2. Screening existing regulations for performance-based treatment could also identify candidates that would *significantly* benefit both the industry and the NRC from a "reduced burden" perspective and should be pursued independently by the NRC. (10 CFR 50 Appendix J, Option B, is an example of where this was previously done with excellent results.)

If you would like further information, please contact either:

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Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James H. McCarthy'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'J' and 'M'.

James H. McCarthy, Manager  
Nuclear Licensing and Operations Support