

July 17, 2000

Owen F. Hidden  
CE Nuclear Power LLC  
Westinghouse Electric Co.  
Dept. 9481-0403  
2000 Day Hill Road  
Windsor, CT 06095

Dear Mr. Hidden:

This letter is in response to your letter of May 31, 2000, proposing the nomination of Mr. Michael Modes to the Chairman of the ASME Section XI Working Group on Procedure Qualification and Volumetric Examination. I am always pleased to hear when an NRC staff member is thought of in such positive terms by his professional peers and is able to facilitate a consensus in difficult technical issues.

The NRC is currently going through a large change in the way it performs inspections and provides regulatory oversight of licensees. This transition requires significant resources and causes the work load on the staff to increase. It is a difficult time during which to divert any staff member's attention from the core mission of the Regional Office. However, ASME's activities are important to the NRC's mission, and I have made special arrangements to support Mr. Modes' chairmanship for one year.

I appreciate your taking the time to correspond with me on the matter and hope that this will facilitate further cooperative standards development.

***/RA/***

Wayne D. Lanning, Director  
Division of Reactor Safety

Mr. Owen F. Hedden

2

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