

August 18, 2000

Dr. Jill Lipoti, Assistant Director  
Department of Environmental Protection  
Division of Environmental Safety, Health and Analytical Programs  
Radiation Protection Programs  
State of New Jersey  
P.O. Box 415  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0415

Dear Dr. Lipoti:

I am responding to your letter of July 20, 2000, requesting information related to the new reactor oversight process (ROP) in which you also raised some concerns regarding public communications associated with the ROP. I understand that Bill Dean of my staff has discussed these issues with you and has also assisted you in obtaining the information you requested to support your meeting with Region I managers on August 9, 2000. I understand that an outcome of this meeting was that a more formal briefing on the ROP by my staff may take place in the coming months. I, therefore, want to focus my response on our activities associated with ROP change management and the issues with public communications you raised in your letter.

The period during which we conducted the ROP pilot program was very dynamic and many changes were made to the ROP in a short time. With initial implementation at all sites, we have made a concerted effort to be much more deliberate in making changes to the ROP. Therefore, the bi-weekly public meetings with NEI and industry during the pilot program are now held about monthly. In addition, the meetings are not resulting in substantive changes to the program as they had in the past, and their focus is more on discussing emerging issues and developing appropriate approaches to deal with these issues in a deliberate manner. I understand Bill discussed several examples of this approach with you.

In your letter, you noted difficulties in obtaining pertinent information on ROP-related activities. In response to feedback we received during the pilot program lessons learned workshop in January 2000, we are now providing more detailed agendas in our meeting notices. However, the agency's web page on meetings only has a summary of the meeting topics and does not provide a full agenda. We need to make this information more accessible such as providing the ADAMS accession number or establishing a hyperlink to the pertinent document. Bill has shared with me that he is working with our Office of the Chief Information Officer on a possible solution. You also noted that you have been unable to get summaries of public meetings after they have been held. I understand that my staff has had some difficulty in making these documents available in ADAMS and plans to add them to the ROP web page to make this information more readily available. This should be completed by mid-September.

Dr. Jill Lipoti

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I appreciate and encourage your continued interest and involvement in our reactor oversight process. You have provided us with valuable feedback that has enabled us to enhance our process and better communicate with our public stakeholders. Please contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Samuel J. Collins, Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Dr. Jill Lipoti

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Sincerely,

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Samuel J. Collins, Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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