

September 5, 2000

Mr. Anthony R. Pietrangelo
Director, Licensing
Nuclear Generation Division
Nuclear Energy Institute
1776 I Street, NW, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20006-3708

Dear Mr. Pietrangelo:

This letter is in response to your August 15, 2000, letter sent to me. I am confirming your withdrawal of the remaining issues for the June 8, 1995, Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) petition that requested the use of 10 CFR 50.59 as a vehicle to address changes to licensees' quality assurance (QA) programs pursuant to 10 CFR 50.54(a).

In a *Federal Register* notice dated February 23, 1999 (64 FR 9029), the NRC partially granted your petition for rulemaking by promulgating a Direct Final Rule to revise 10 CFR 50.54(a) to allow licensees to make additional changes to selected elements of their QA program without having to obtain prior NRC approval. However, the Direct Final Rule did not grant the use of 10 CFR 50.59 for QA program change control.

If you disagree with the characterization of your August 15, 2000, letter as a withdrawal of all outstanding issues for the NEI June 8, 1995, petition concerning the use of 10 CFR 50.59 as a vehicle to address changes to licensees' QA programs changes pursuant 10 CFR 50.54(a), please respond back to me in a letter within 14 days. Otherwise, a *Federal Register* notice will inform the public of your partial withdrawal and our closure of your petition.

Sincerely,
/RA/

Theodore R. Quay, Chief, IQMB
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure: NEI letter dated August 15, 2000

CONTACT: Michael T. Bugg

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CONTACT: Michael T. Bugg

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