

September 28, 2000

Massachusetts Citizens for Safe Energy  
ATTN: Ms. Mary Lampert  
29 Temple Place  
Boston, MA 02111

Dear Ms. Lampert:

I want to thank you for coming to the public meeting that discussed the NRC's new reactor oversight process on August 30, 2000, in Plymouth, Massachusetts. From my perspective, I was very pleased with both the attendance and interest on the part of the citizens from the local communities, their representatives, and affiliated organizations. The NRC has gone to great length to be more open and involve all the stakeholders, including the public, in revising this very important function. Dialogues, such as occurred at the August 30 meeting, are necessary for this new process to be effective. The public needs to know not just that the NRC regulates commercial reactors, but how we accomplish this, and how the public can review this oversight process at work. I hope that we provided you and all the attendees at the meeting sufficient information for a better understanding of the new oversight process and how we intend to use risk insights to improve our oversight decision-making.

At the meeting I welcomed your comments on NRC reactor oversight and answered many of your questions. I have provided your comments to the organization within NRC that is responsible for developing the new process. As I mentioned at the meeting, the NRC is in the initial implementation phase of the new reactor oversight process. During that phase, we will monitor the effectiveness of the new process and, where appropriate, revise it to ensure that our regulatory responsibilities are met. Feedback from all the stakeholders will be considered during this phase to ensure that the process meets our regulatory mission as well as the needs of the stakeholders.

At the meeting you asked for the NRC policy regarding licensee submission of Performance Indicators (PIs). During the pilot program phase of the new reactor oversight process, licensees sent their PI data to the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) so that it could be put into a standard format for transmittal to the NRC. That format has been approved formally and now all licensees submit PI data directly to the NRC. This process is described in NRC Regulatory Issue Summary 2000-08, Voluntary Submission of Performance Indicator Data and Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) 99-02, Rev. 0, Regulatory Assessment Performance Indicator Guidelines. Both of these documents are available on the NRC web site at [www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/index.html](http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/index.html).

This web site can also provide you with more current information about our oversight activities at Pilgrim, and other plants. The web site also contains our new inspection procedures and other oversight program guidance which you may find useful.

Thank you again for your interest in the NRC's new reactor oversight process. I hope that the information provided at the meeting and in this letter address your questions.

Sincerely,

/RA/

James C. Linville, Chief  
Projects Branch 6  
Division of Reactor Projects

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