

November 13, 2000

Mr. David J. Modeen
Director of Engineering
Nuclear Energy Institute
Suite 400
1776 I Street, N. W.
Washington, DC 20006-3708

SUBJECT: CONTROL ROOM HABITABILITY

Dear Mr. Modeen:

Based upon our October 27, 2000, meeting and our November 2, 2000, discussion, it is mutually agreed that the NRC will pursue the resolution of control room habitability concerns without providing Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) our review of and comments on the October 13, 2000, draft NEI document NEI 99-03, "Control Room Habitability Assessment Guidance". Rather, the NRC will pursue the resolution of control room habitability concerns through the public comment process. NEI may disposition NEI 99-03 as it deems appropriate.

As discussed during the October 25, 2000, public meeting on control room habitability, there were five areas of NEI 99-03 in which the staff and NEI had not reached complete closure. They were:

1. Baseline testing method and the manner and frequency of periodic verification.
2. Regulatory controls.
3. Integrated analysis of control room habitability in light of current information.
4. Inclusion of releases from adjacent power plants.
5. Capability to safely manage the reactor from either the alternate shutdown locations or the main control room in the event of a fire and its associated byproducts.

The staff's pursuance of control room habitability in the public comment process will address these issues.

Please convey to the Control Room Habitability Task Force our appreciation for their efforts in this area.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Barrett, Chief */RA/*
Probabilistic Safety Assessment Branch
Division of Systems Safety and Analysis
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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