UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION II
SAM NUNN ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
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ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8931

December 4, 2000

Ms. Mary A. Ferdig
Principal, Ferdig, Inc.
Organization and Leadership Consultants
2419 South 102nd Street
Omaha, NE 68124

SUBJECT: REACTOR OVERSIGHT PROCESS INITIAL IMPLEMENTATION EVALUATION PANEL

Dear Ms. Ferdig:

Thank you for agreeing to participate as a member of the NRC's Reactor Oversight Process Initial Implementation Evaluation Panel (IIEP). The knowledge, experience, and perspectives that you will bring to this effort will be extremely beneficial in helping the NRC determine whether the Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) continues to meet it's overall objectives to (1) ensure that commercial nuclear power plants continue to be operated safely, (2) enhance public confidence by increasing predictability, consistency and objectivity of the oversight process, and (3) improve the efficiency and effectiveness of regulatory oversight by focusing agency and licensee resources on those issues with the most safety significance.

The ROP for commercial nuclear power plants is described in NRC Inspection Manual Chapter 2515. Background information on the development of the ROP is contained in Commission papers SECY-99-007, "Recommendations For Reactor Oversight Process Improvements," dated January 8, 1999, SECY-99-007A, "Recommendations For Reactor Oversight Process Improvements (Follow-up to SECY-99-007)," dated March 22, 1999, and SECY-00-049, "Results of the Revised Reactor Oversight Process Pilot Program," dated February 24, 2000. These Commission papers describe the scope and content of performance indicator reporting, a new risk-informed baseline inspection program, a new assessment process, and revisions to the enforcement policy. Commission paper SECY-00-049 also describes the results from the Pilot
Program Evaluation Panel (a previous Federal Advisory Committees Act (FACA) panel), including a recommendation from the panel to proceed with initial implementation of the ROP at all power reactor facilities. On March 28, 2000, the Commission approved initial implementation of the ROP, and on May 17, 2000, the Commission directed the NRC staff to convene another evaluation panel under FACA to evaluate the first year of implementation of the ROP. The staff has established the IIEP, of which you are a member, in response to the Commission's directions.

The IIEP will function as a cross-disciplinary oversight group to independently monitor and evaluate the results of the first year of initial implementation of the ROP and provide advice and recommendations to the Director of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation on reforming and revising the ROP. The IIEP will evaluate the ROP results against performance measures. The

IIEP will provide a written report containing an overall evaluation of the ROP to the Director of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation. This report will include the consensus views of the panel, or the majority and minority views when panel consensus cannot be achieved. The NRC staff will use the IIEP evaluation as a major input to its deliberative process to determine what modifications, if any, are needed to the ROP following initial implementation.

IIEP meetings will be announced to the public in advance and (unless closed according to the provisions of FACA) open to the public. Subject to the Freedom of Information Act, all material made available to or prepared for or by the IIEP will be made available to the public. Meetings will be transcribed and meeting summaries will be prepared following each meeting to document the results of the meetings. The transcripts and meeting summaries will be publicly available.

The IIEP membership will include participants from NRC headquarters and regional offices, a representative from the Nuclear Energy Institute, reactor licensee management representatives, and representatives from States of California and Georgia. A listing of panel members and contact information is attached for your information.

The next IIEP meeting will be held on December 11-12, 2000, at NRC Region II Offices in Atlanta, Georgia. I will serve as the Chairman of the IIEP. To facilitate IIEP activities, Mr. John Monninger will serve as the Designated Federal Official. Mr. Monninger will be the focal point for meeting coordination, information collection and distribution, and serve as a resource to facilitate report writing. Please contact John D. Monninger at jdm@nrc.gov, (301) 415-3495, or myself at lrp@nrc.gov, (404) 562-4501, if you have any questions. We may be contacted at any time, preferably by e-mail.

I look forward to our first IIEP meeting and will provide you with additional details as they develop.

Sincerely,

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Loren R. Plisco, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

Enclosure: Initial Implementation Evaluation
Panel Member Information

INITIAL IMPLEMENTATION EVALUATION PANEL MEMBER INFORMATION

Name	Title & Address	Telephone / FAX / Email
Randy Blough	Mr. A. Randolph Blough Director - Division of Reactor Projects, Region I U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission 475 Allendale Road King of Prussia, PA 19406-1415	(610)337-5229 FAX: (610)337-5349 arb@nrc.gov
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Dave Garchow	Mr. David F. Garchow Vice President -Technical Support PSEG Nuclear LLC P.O. Box 236, (MS-N23) [End of Alloway Creek Neck Road, MC-X101] Hancock's Bridge, NJ 08038	(856)339-3250 FAX: (856)339-3482 david.garchow@pseg.com
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Robert Laurie	Mr. Robert A. Laurie Commissioner - California Energy Commission 1516 Ninth Street, MS-31 Sacramento, CA 95814-5512	(916)654-4001 FAX: (916)653-3478 MDAgosti@energy.state.ca.us

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Loren Plisco	Mr. Loren R. Plisco Director - Division of Reactor Projects, Region II U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Sam Nunn Atlanta Federal Center, 23 T85 61 Forsyth Street, S.W. Atlanta, GA 30303-3415	(404)562-4501 FAX: (404)562-4514 lrp@nrc.gov
Steve Reynolds	Mr. Steven A. Reynolds Deputy Director - Division of Reactor Projects, Region III U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission 801 Warrenville Road Lisle, IL 60532-4351	(630)829-9701 FAX: (630)515-1249 sar1@nrc.gov
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James Setser	Mr. James L. Setser Chief - Program Coordination Branch Environmental Protection Division Department of Natural Resources 205 Butler Street, Suite 1152 East Tower Atlanta, Georgia 30334	(404) 656-4713 FAX (404) 651-5778 jim_setser@mail.dnr.state.ga.us (note there is an underscore "_" between jim and setser)
Ray Shadis	Mr. Raymond Shadis New England Coalition on Nuclear Pollution P.O. Box 76 Edgecomb, Maine 04556	(207)882-7801 FAX (207)563-6302
Jim Trapp	Mr. James M. Trapp Senior Reactor Analyst U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission 475 Allendale Road King of Prussia, PA 19406-1415	(610)337-5186 FAX: (610)337-6928 jmt1@nrc.gov
Andy Bates (NRC Advisory Committee Management Officer)	Dr. Andrew L. Bates Office of the Secretary of the Commission U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission OWFN 16C1 Washington, DC 20555	(301)415-1963 FAX: (301)415-1672 alb@nrc.gov

Enclosure

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Enclosure