



NUCLEAR ENERGY INSTITUTE

Ralph E. Beedle

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT AND
CHIEF NUCLEAR OFFICER,
NUCLEAR GENERATION

May 16, 2001

Mr. Ashok C. Thadani
Director
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Dear Mr. Thadani:

Your letter of March 13 discussed the need for the industry to update summary risk information in a publicly available form. We recognize the need for risk information and use of risk insights in regulatory decisionmaking, and the fact that industrywide publicly available risk information has not been updated since the original IPE and IPEEE submittals.

Plants requesting risk-informed licensing actions provide updated risk information to support the regulatory decisionmaking process. The level of detail and specific risk information in these submittals is a function of the type of application and the degree to which risk insights are used for the proposed licensing action. NRC has recently approved a policy allowing the agency to request risk information in support of licensing actions, even if the requested licensing action meets all existing deterministic regulatory requirements. The NRC appears to have sufficient risk information to make risk-informed decisions for individual plants.

We agree that providing a level of updated risk information for all plants could improve broad regulatory decisionmaking and improve public confidence. NEI will discuss this matter with our industrywide advisory committee and consider the feasibility of a voluntary industry initiative to provide updated industrywide risk information. We will discuss the progress of this activity at future meetings with the NRC PRA steering committee.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Beedle", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive in style.

Ralph E. Beedle

c: Dr. William D. Travers
Mr. Samuel J. Collins