

June 15, 2001

Mr. Marvin S. Fertel
Senior Vice President
Business Operations
Nuclear Energy Institute
1776 I Street, NW, Suite 400
Washington, D.C. 20006-3708

Dear Mr. Fertel:

I am writing on behalf of the Commission in response to your letter of May 14, 2001, concerning whether combined license (COL) applications should contain inspections, tests, analyses, and acceptance criteria (ITAAC) for operational programs. As you know, this issue was discussed previously in SECY-00-0092, "Combined License Review Process." In the staff requirements memorandum on SECY-00-0092, the Commission stated that "in connection with the Part 52 rulemaking, the staff should specifically seek comment on and continue to work with stakeholders on the need for and scope of the ITAAC for programmatic areas." Your letter requests "early resolution of this issue to allow licensees, the NRC, and other stakeholders to be clear on how Part 52 requirements on the scope of COL ITAAC are to be met."

The staff has informed me that they are preparing a *Federal Register* notice to solicit comments regarding "programmatic" ITAAC. The staff expects to issue this notice in July 2001. Further action will be taken on this matter following receipt and evaluation of the comments associated with this notice.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Richard A. Meserve