

June13, 2001

NOTE TO: John Craig, Assistant for Operations
Office of Executive Director for Operations

FROM: Samuel J. Collins, Director */RA/*
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: RESPONSE LETTER TO NEI COMMENTS ON NUREG-1738

We received an April 26, 2001, letter from Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) commenting on NUREG-1738, "Technical Study of Spent Fuel Pool Accident Risk at Decommissioning Nuclear Power Plants," issued in February 2001. NEI commented that the approach taken in the NUREG was not based on a realistic evaluation of risk, was a worse-case estimate, and overstated the risk posed by spent fuel pools. NEI also recommended that the NUREG be withdrawn and reissued after an independent peer review panel examined the technical basis of the NUREG.

Our response to NEI on this subject and the April 26, 2001, letter from NEI are attached. In our response to NEI, we state that in accordance with the staff requirements memorandum of March 13, 2001, the Commission will consider comments and recommendations from stakeholders, including NEI, when it reviews our policy options paper on the spent fuel pool risk at decommissioning plants.

Please make this information available to the Commission as background when the Commission considers our approach to resolving this issue.

Attachments: As stated

Contact: David Diec, SPLB/DSSA/NRR
301-415-2834

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