



NUCLEAR ENERGY INSTITUTE

**James W. Davis**  
DIRECTOR, OPERATIONS  
NUCLEAR GENERATION DIVISION

June 6, 2001

Mr. David C. Trimble, Section Chief  
Operator Licensing and Human Performance Section  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Dear Mr. Trimble:

Over the past two years the industry and NRC staff have discussed options for preparing and conducting the initial licensed operator examination. Beyond the current process, only two alternatives were identified that warranted serious discussion. In a February 2001 public meeting, the advantages and disadvantages of these alternative approaches was reviewed.

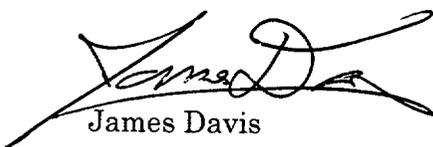
At the end of the meeting a key question was where to best use resources, to further define the two alternate approaches or to continue to refine the current process. We believe the two alternatives have merit; however, in the near-term, both NRC staff and industry efforts will be most effective if applied to streamlining the current process without jeopardizing examination integrity.

The next meeting of the Initial Licensed Operator Task Force (ILOTF) is scheduled for August 15-16, 2001. We request a public meeting be scheduled the morning of Thursday, August 16, in order to continue the important dialogue between the ILOTF membership and your staff.

Since the February meeting, the industry has had opportunity to implement Supplement 1 to NUREG 1021, Rev. 8, as well as other examination-related aspects germane to the Generic Fundamentals Examination (GFES), and the ILOTF has analyzed the October 2000, and February 2001 GFES review documents. Industry experiences since the February public meeting, coupled with the GFES document reviews will be the foundation for discussion items at the next public meeting.

We hope you will be able to support our request for a public meeting the morning of August 16, 2001. If you have any comments or questions, please contact Bob Evans (202-739-8101) of my staff.

Sincerely,



James Davis

