

November 13, 1998

Dr. Robert L. Seale, Chairman  
Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

SUBJECT: THE NUCLEAR ENERGY INSTITUTE'S PETITION FOR RULEMAKING TO  
AMEND 10 CFR 50.54(a), CONDITIONS OF LICENSES

Dear Dr. Seale:

Thank you for your letter of October 20, 1998, on the above subject. We appreciate the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) review of the staff's concepts that are intended to resolve the petition from the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI). Your letter notes that the ACRS is in general agreement with the approach outlined in the draft Commission paper on this subject that was shared with you, and indicated that the staff should proceed with its efforts to revise 10 CFR 50.54(a).

The staff will integrate risk-informed approaches, as appropriate, as part of the voluntary alternative rule that the staff envisions. Subject to the approval of the Commission of the staff's proposals, and following further interactions with external interested parties, the staff will meet with you to discuss the voluntary alternative approach.

Sincerely,

*Original signed by*  
*William D. Travers*  
William D. Travers  
Executive Director  
for Operations

cc: Chairman Jackson  
Commissioner Dicus  
Commissioner Diaz  
Commissioner McGaffigan  
Commissioner Merrifield

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