September 4, 2001

Mr. David Lochbaum Nuclear Safety Engineer Union of Concerned Scientists 1707 H Street NW Suite 600 Washington, DC 20006-3919

Dear Mr. Lochbaum:

Once again, thank you for your letter dated July 13, 2001, concerning the July 11, 2001 public meeting, the discussions on the Safeguards Performance Assessment (SPA) Program, and the reevaluation of 10 CFR 55.37. Your continued participation and insights at these meetings are appreciated.

As discussed during the August 28, 2001, public meeting on SPA, we have reflected upon the public's access to important program information during the pilot, as well as the suggestions outlined in your letter. We intend to develop a means to publicly document the lessons-learned, as well as the potentially desirable or undesirable attributes noted during the SPA pilot program assessment. This documentation, along with routine public meetings, would enable stakeholders as well as the general public to better understand the ongoing activities, status of and NRC's basis for future decisions.

We plan to address the issues associated with the conduct of force-on-force exercises beyond the "core damage" objective, as well as varying the "timing" of the mock exercise. As you are aware, we have taken specific steps regarding these matters in the proposed revision to 10 CFR 73.55, and agree that the testing of these concepts is worthwhile. We will continue to discuss initiatives in this area in future public meetings.

We thank you for your valuable contributions regarding nuclear power plant security.

Sincerely,

/**RA**/

Glenn M. Tracy, Chief Operator Licensing, Human Performance, and Plant Support Branch Division of Inspection Program Management Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation Mr. David Lochbaum Nuclear Safety Engineer Union of Concerned Scientists 1707 H Street NW Suite 600 Washington, DC 20006-3919

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