



NUCLEAR ENERGY INSTITUTE

Ralph E. Beedle

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT AND
CHIEF NUCLEAR OFFICER,
NUCLEAR GENERATION

October 1, 2001

Mr. Samuel J. Collins
Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mail Stop O5 E7
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Dear Mr. Collins:

NEI has reviewed the procedures for granting unescorted access to the protected area of power reactors. More timely receipt of criminal history records would significantly improve the review process. I therefore request that the NRC assign the resources needed to process fingerprint cards within 24 hours of receipt.

The NRC has improved the processing of fingerprint cards through the use of electronic submission to the Federal Bureau of Investigation; response to licensees has improved from months to about two weeks. The major delay is now the scanning of hard copy fingerprint cards at the NRC. This scanning process results in a seven-day delay in receipt of criminal history record information (CHRI).

Ultimately the goal should be a three-day turnaround, which can be achieved by electronic submission from the licensee to the NRC. A technical proposal was provided to the staff in January 2001. In a September 24, 2001, letter to the NRC (Mr. Glenn Tracy), we requested an interim step that would allow a few licensees to submit scanned fingerprints on a compact disk. Through the use of one-day mail delivery service and expedited card processing, the total period from fingerprint submission to CHRI receipt by a licensee could be shortened to about three to four days. With a full electronic processing system in place, the turnaround period should be no more than three days.

Until such time as the electronic process is used, additional manual scanning capability is needed. If you have any questions, please contact me or Jim Davis (202-739-8105).

Sincerely,

Ralph E. Beedle

*Add Rids Prod YE03
9003*

