



NUCLEAR ENERGY INSTITUTE

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December 13, 2001

Mr. Eric W. Weiss
Plant Systems Branch
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Mail Stop O11-A11
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

SUBJECT: Fire Protection Rulemaking Implementing Guidance

PROJECT NUMBER: 689

Dear Mr. Weiss:

Enclosed is a preliminary outline of the industry implementing guidance to support the risk-informed, performance-based fire protection rulemaking currently under development by the NRC. This outline summarizes the information needed for licensees to transition to a new fire protection-licensing basis based on NFPA 805. It also identifies the guidance necessary for licensees retaining their existing licensing bases to use tools from NFPA 805.

Please note that the outline provides a framework for the implementation guide contents and does not address industry positions or recommended actions. These remain to be developed after NRC has reviewed the outline. As indicated in our August 28 letter, we look for your comments on this outline by January 21, 2002, and completing resolution of any comments related to proposed content by March 4, 2002. At that point we will begin preparation of the full guidance document, and provide a draft for your review in August 2002.

We look forward to discussing this with you at the public meeting scheduled for December 18. It would be helpful if we could receive a draft of the NRC's proposed language for the associated rulemaking prior to that meeting. This will facilitate a discussion of the changes that may be necessary to the outline to accommodate this language, and will reduce the amount of time necessary to achieve closure on the topics and issues to be covered in the implementing guidance document.

Mr. Eric W. Weiss
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If you have any further questions please contact Fred Emerson at 202-739-8086,
fae@nei.org or me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alex Marion". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "A".

Alex Marion

FAE/maa
Enclosure