

February 12, 2002

Mr. Anthony R. Pietrangelo, Director  
Risk and Performance Based Regulation  
Nuclear Generation  
NEI  
1776 I Street, NW, Suite 400  
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Mr. Pietrangelo:

Thank you for your letter of December 18, 2001, clarifying your request for NRC review and approval of industry's PRA peer review process guidelines (NEI-00-02). Your first letter transmitting NEI-00-02 (dated April 24, 2000) requested that NRC limit its review to support industry implementation of the Option 2 regulatory effort. However, we both recognize that risk-informed regulation is very broad and encompasses regulatory activities beyond Option 2.

The various risk-informed regulatory activities involve a common element in that each activity uses PRA information in its decision-making process. Therefore, in this process, there needs to be confidence in the PRA results from which the insights are derived. In other words, depending on the application, the PRA needs to have the proper scope and technical attributes to have the necessary level of confidence in the results used in the decision-making. We agree that NEI-00-02 can be used in this regard and need not solely be limited to Option 2 applications. Therefore, as per your request, we plan to expand our review to consider NEI-00-02 in support of risk-informed regulation, and not just one application (i.e., Option 2).

We shall continue to hold public meetings to solicit feedback from stakeholders on this topic. At our last, recent, public meeting (February 5, 2002), we discussed our review plans. Please do not hesitate to contact me (301-415-6641) or Mary Drouin (at 301 415-6675) of my staff if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Ashok C. Thadani, Director */RA/*  
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

cc: Sam Collins  
Scott Newberry

Distribution: Roy Zimmerman S. Nesmith, RES 2001275  
Dave Matthews  
Gary Holahan  
Gareth Parry  
Michael Cheok  
Cynthia Carpenter  
Timothy Reed

**\*SEE PREVIOUS CONCURRENCE\***

G:\response to nei dec 18-01 letter on expanded review (rev).wpd  
OAR in ADAMS? (Y or N) Y ADAMS ACCESSION NO.: \_\_\_\_\_ TEMPLATE NO. RES-\_\_\_\_  
Publicly Available? (Y or N) Y DATE OF RELEASE TO PUBLIC 5 days SENSITIVE? N

Document Name: G:\Mary\response to nei dec 18-01 letter on expanded review(rev).wpd  
To receive a copy of this document, indicate in the box: "C" = Copy without attachment/enclosure "E" = Copy with attachment/enclosure  
"N" = No copy

OFFICE	PRAB*	PRAB*	DRAA*	NRR*	RES
NAME	M Drouin	M Cunningham	S. Newberry	FGillespie for DMatthews	A. Thadani
DATE	01/ 20 /02	01/ 30 /02	02/ 01 /02	02/10/02	02/ 12 /02

(RES File Code) RES \_\_\_\_\_