

August 12, 2002

Mr. James W. Davis, Director
Operations Department
Nuclear Energy Institute
Suite 400
1776 I Street
Washington D.C., 20006-3708

Dear Mr. Davis:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that the User Acceptance testing of the NRC's Criminal History Program (CHP) Electronic Information Exchange System (EIE) was successful. The EIE received formal certification and accreditation, and was operational on July 31, 2002.

Utilization of the CHP EIE will accelerate the return of the FBI responses of fingerprint checks to the licensees. Currently, only two (Pennsylvania Power & Light (PP&L) and Progress Energy) of the sixty eight utilities, use the CHP EIE. The staff considers use of the CHP EIE a significant improvement opportunity in the access authorization process, which will facilitate the impending elimination of temporary unescorted access at nuclear facilities.

Remittance for fingerprint submittals may be made either by check or NRC Form 629, "Authorization for Payment by Credit Card." The NRC Form 629 may be faxed to 301-415-5118 in conjunction with the CHP EIE transmission or included along with the fingerprint cards or CDs. NRC will continue to accept checks as payment. A list of the names and social security numbers associated with each payment must be included. In the future, Form 629 will be available for completion on line and for submission through the CHP EIE.

The Instructional Guide and answers to many Frequently Asked Questions regarding CHP EIE can be found on the NRC web site in the NRC's Electronic Information Exchange pages at www.nrc.gov/site-help/eie.html.

Any comments or additional questions regarding use of the CHP EIE may be addressed by contacting Doreen Turner at (301) 415-6511.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Vonna L. Ordaz, Chief
Reactor Safeguards Policy Section
Division of Nuclear Security
Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response

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Vonna L. Ordaz, Chief
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