

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

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