September 10, 2002

Mr. Alexander Marion Director, Division of Engineering Nuclear Energy Institute 1776 I Street NW Suite 400 Washington, DC 20006-3708

SUBJECT: CONTROL ROOM HABITABILITY

Dear Mr. Marion:

Your August 19, 2002 letter provided NEI's thoughts on revising NEI 99-03, *Control Room Habitability Assessment Guidance*, the scope of the possible changes, and a schedule for such changes. We appreciate your interest and proposed action to resolve the issue of control room habitability. Accordingly, we have agreed with Kurt Cozens of your staff to have a public meeting on September 10, 2002, to initiate the effort.

Please remain aware, however, as discussed at the public workshops on control room habitability, that the staff will continue to work to its goals to technically complete the associated Regulatory Guides and Generic Letter by December 2002 and publish them by April 2003. It is our intent to reference or endorse NEI 99-03 in these Regulatory Guides to the extent possible consistent with our schedule.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Mark Reinhart, Chief Licensing Section Probabilistic Safety Assessment Branch Division of Systems Safety and Analysis Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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