DOCKET NUMBER
PETITION RULE PRM 52-1
(66FR 48832)

GREENPEACE

702 H Street, NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20001
Tel: 202-462-1177 • Fax. 202-462-4507
1-800-326-0959 • www.greenpeaceusa.org

(10)

DOCKETED
USNRC

September 12, 2002 (2:48PM)

OFFICE OF SECRETARY
RULEMAKINGS AND
ADJUDICATIONS STAFF

August 1, 2002

The Honorable Richard A. Meserve, Chairman
The Honorable Dr. Nils J. Diaz, Commissioner
The Honorable Greta J. Dicus, Commissioner
The Honorable Edward McGaffigan, Jr., Commissioner
The Honorable Jeffrey S. Merrifield, Commissioner
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Chairman and Commissioners:

Over the last several months I have been attending the meetings between the NRC's New Reactor Licensing Project Office and the Nuclear Energy Institute, Exelon, Entergy and Dominion. Some of these meetings and many of the discussions have concerned changing the NRC's regulations governing early site permits, design certifications and combined licenses.

During the course of these meetings.it has become increasingly evident that the proposed rule changes being suggested by the Nuclear Energy Institute and the nuclear industry are not due to any defect in the rule. The proposed changes will not relieve the industry of any "unnecessary regulatory burden" nor will it make the process more efficient or effective.

The NEI and the nuclear industry are seeking to change NRC's regulations due to their inability to choose a specific reactor design that they intend to construct. This reticence on the part of Exelon, Entergy and Dominion is not due to the lack of potential nuclear plant designs. The NRC has already certified several nuclear power plant designs and is in the process of certifying several more.

Rather, Exelon, Entergy and Dominion have failed to choose a specific nuclear reactor design because none of the reactors are economically viable. While I appreciate the industry's predicament, the inability of new nuclear power plants to compete in a deregulated electricity market is not a legitimate reason to alter NRC regulation.

I am aware that the Commission, at the behest of the nuclear industry, is currently considering several changes to the regulations governing early site permits and new reactor licensing. I ask that you reject the NEI and industry proposed changes to Part 52. To do otherwise will only serve to undermine public confidence in the legitimacy of the NRC and any future reactor licensing process.

I thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

James Riccio

James Riccio
Nuclear Policy Analyst

Printed on processed chlorine free paper with 100% recycled content, using vegetable inks

Template=SECY-067

SECY-02