

December 10, 2002

Mr. Marvin S. Fertel
Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI)
1776 I Street, NW, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20006-3708

SUBJECT: Early Site Permit Issues

Dear Mr. Fertel:

The purpose of this letter is to acknowledge receipt of your letter to Mr. William F. Kane dated November 14, 2002, regarding the Nuclear Energy Institute's (NEI's) views on issues related to the early site permit (ESP) applications to be filed in 2003. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has always been receptive to the use of alternative approaches to meet regulatory requirements so we look forward to continuing our working-level discussions on the practical implementation of the plant parameter envelope (PPE) approach and other related issues. In order to achieve a set of common understandings and expectations by the February 1, 2003, deadline cited in your letter regarding the PPE approach (ESP-6 and ESP-7) and quality assurance (ESP-3) issues, the staff must receive the applicable White Papers which describe your position by December 20, 2002. You discussed the schedule for these papers in the public meeting on November 5, 2002. In addition, Mr. Ronaldo V. Jenkins, Project Manager for ESPs of my staff notified Mr. Russell Bell of your staff of additional questions on the PPE approach in the environmental area which we transmitted to you on November 26, 2002. We would request that the PPE White Paper address your response to the subject questions. Please contact Mr. Jenkins at 301-415-2985 if you have any questions on this matter.

Sincerely,

/RA/

James E. Lyons, Director
New Reactor Licensing Project Office
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Project No. 689

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James E. Lyons, Director
New Reactor Licensing Project Office
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Project No. 689

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| NAME | RJenkins | MGamberoni | JLyons | |
| DATE | 12/2/02 | 12/3/02 | 12/3/02 | |

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Distribution for G20020655 to M. Fertel dated December 10, 2002

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ESP-Generic

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