December 17, 2002

Mr. Joe F. Colvin
President and Chief Executive Officer
Nuclear Energy Institute
1776 I Street, N.W., Suite 400
Washington, D.C. 20006-3708

Dear Mr. Colvin:

I am responding on behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to your letter of November 14, 2002, concerning the NRC's review of its security requirements. In your letter, you noted that insight from both the NRC and the industry is necessary to resolve two specific issues related to security: (1) establishing the bases for protection of the public; and (2) determining the boundaries between protective strategies required of licensees and those of the local, State, and Federal government agencies.

We believe that extensive interaction with appropriately cleared stakeholders and local, State and Federal agency representatives, including the Department of Homeland Security, is necessary to understand fully the potential ramifications of security-related decisions and to ensure reasonable and consistent application across national critical infrastructure. Your letter indicated that a meeting between executives of the nuclear industry and the Commission would be illuminating. The Commission is planning to conduct such a meeting and we will provide you with the details in the near future. In the interim, please continue to provide comments to the NRC staff for consideration.

The NRC staff has sought and obtained valuable feedback from appropriately cleared stakeholders concerning security topics. We appreciate this input and encourage continued interaction with the NRC staff on these important matters.

I wish to thank you for your continued interest in enhancing the security of nuclear facilities. If you have any further comments or recommendations, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Richard A. Meserve