

June 27, 2003

Mr. Alex Marion  
Director of Engineering  
Nuclear Energy Institute  
1776 I Street, N.W., Suite 400  
Washington, DC 20006-3708

SUBJECT: RESOURCE NEEDS FOR LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION REVIEWS

Dear Mr. Marion:

We appreciate your June 2, 2003, letter responding to our April 18, 2003, request for input on the impacts of a Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff consideration of limiting the number of license renewal applications (LRAs) under review at any one time. As discussed in further detail at the May 16, 2003, meeting between the Nuclear Energy Institute's (NEI's) License Renewal Working Group and the NRC's License Renewal Steering Committee, resource needs for license renewal are increasing, and a proposed limit on the LRAs under review is being considered to help ensure that sufficient resources are available to continue other established product lines and better balance resources among critical programs.

We are continuing to assess projected resource needs for license renewal and other NRC programs as part of our budget interactions with the Commission and anticipate a decision on the license renewal budget by August 2003. The input provided in your letter is being considered as part of this process. Although the June 19, 2003, senior management meeting referenced in your letter has been postponed until August 8, 2003, we agree that it would be beneficial to discuss the limitation of NRR resources and what the impact of shifting staff resources to LRA reviews would have on other important regulatory activities.

For applicants after September 2004, your letter described a process for establishing submittal slots in each fiscal year and a proposed method of administering the process. The NRC staff agrees that establishing slots for future submittals could help alleviate the uncertainty and variation in resource needs that currently exists and would provide more predictability in the planning process for both the NRC and future applicants. We look forward to discussing your proposed process in further detail and will contact you to arrange a meeting.

A. Marion

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We have a mutual interest in achieving further efficiencies in the license renewal process and look forward to interacting with NEI and other interested stakeholders to pursue these efficiencies.

Sincerely,  
**/RA/**

Pao-Tsin Kuo, Program Director  
License Renewal and Environmental Impacts Program  
Division of Regulatory Improvements Programs  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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cc: See next page

A. Marion

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Sincerely,

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