July 8, 2003

Mr. Alexander Marion
Director, Engineering Department, Nuclear Generation Division
Nuclear Energy Institute
1776 I St NW # 400
Washington, DC 20006

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF NRC DRAFT NUREG REPORT "TECHNICAL BASIS FOR REVISION OF THE PRESSURIZED THERMAL SHOCK (PTS) SCREENING CRITERIA IN THE PTS RULE (10CFR50.61)," NEI PROJECT NUMBER 689

Dear Mr. Marion:

Thank you for your letter dated June 23, 2003, on this topic, and for the detailed comments you provided on our draft NUREG. Your comments on our report will be very helpful to us as we improve and finalize our findings. Currently, we are performing probabilistic risk assessment and probabilistic fracture mechanics calculations on the fourth and final plant in our study (Calvert Cliffs Unit 1), and are examining the steps needed to generalize these results to all domestic pressurized water reactors. This information, along with your comments and those that we have received from the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR), will provide the basis for a revised suite of reports that should be completed in March 2004. We are convening an external expert panel to conduct a peer review of this revised report. We plan to issue a final report after receiving and addressing comments from this peer review panel.

The assistance of the industry, working under the auspices of the Electric Power Research Institute's Materials Reliability Program, has been invaluable in the conduct and success of the PTS re-evaluation effort. My staff and I look forward to continued interactions with your colleagues in this group.

Should you have any additional questions please feel free to contact me at any time, either by e-mail to ncc1@nrc.gov, or at 301-415-0190. Technical questions should be directed to Mark Kirk of my staff; Mark can be reached at mtk@nrc.gov or 301-415-6015.

Sincerely,

/RA/ Jitendra P. Vora/ for

Nilesh C. Chokshi, Chief
Materials Engineering Branch
Division of Engineering Technology
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

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