

August 27, 2003

Mr. Alexander Marion, Director, Engineering
Nuclear Generation Division
Nuclear Energy Institute
1776 I Street NW, Suite 400
Washington DC

SUBJECT: NEI 02-03 "GUIDANCE FOR PERFORMING A REGULATORY REVIEW OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE APPROVED FIRE PROTECTION PROGRAM"

Dear Mr. Marion,

Thank you for providing me with Revision 0, of NEI 02-03, Guidance for Performing a Regulatory Review of Proposed Changes to the Approved Fire Protection Program, with your June 17, 2003, letter (ML031780500). The staff has no comments, but would like to make the following points regarding the change process:

- Changes to the Approved Fire Protection Program (AFPP) must be in accordance with the applicable rules and the plant's specific licensing basis.
- This guidance may be used to evaluate changes to the AFPP, but changes that would result in noncompliance with the rules require NRC approval.

Using published guidance, such as NEI 02-03, for evaluating changes to the AFPP should ensure consistent evaluations and will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the regulatory process.

Sincerely,

/RA/

John Hannon, Chief
Plant Systems Branch
Division of Systems Safety and Analysis
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Project No. 689

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