

February 10, 2004

Mr. Alexander Marion, Director Engineering  
Nuclear Generation Division  
Nuclear Energy Institute  
1776 I Street, NW, Suite 400  
Washington, DC 20006-3708

SUBJECT: PROJECT NUMBER: 689

Dear Mr. Marion:

This letter responds to your letter to me dated September 11, 2003, in which you requested consideration of an additional incentive to encourage licensees to adopt a risk-informed, performance-based fire protection rule based on the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 805, "Performance-Based Standard for Fire Protection for Light Water Reactor Electric Generating Plants." As you mentioned, the proposed incentive is an addition to your previously proposed incentives contained in a letter dated February 13, 2003.

It is U.S. NRC policy to increase the use of risk information in the regulatory decision-making process and reduce unnecessary regulatory burden associated with the existing deterministic fire protection rule. The NRC also wants to encourage licensees to adopt the NFPA 805 Standard, which provides many tools and processes for risk-informed, performance-based methods to evaluate fire protection requirements at nuclear power plants.

We have evaluated your proposal for an additional incentive. The staff proposed this incentive in a SECY Paper for the NFPA 805 rule for Commission approval.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Naeem Iqbal of my staff, (301) 415-3346.

Sincerely,

John N. Hannon, Chief *//RAI/*  
Plant Systems Branch  
Division of Systems Safety and Analysis  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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