



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

October 7, 2004

Mr. Glen R. Mills
P.O. Box 3393
Mission Viejo, CA 92690

SUBJECT: NRC RESPONSE TO YOUR JULY 30, 2004 LETTER CONCERNING 10 CFR
PART 50 APPENDIX B QUALITY ASSURANCE CRITERIA

Dear Mr. Mills:

This letter refers to information you provided to the Office of the Inspector General of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) in a letter dated July 30, 2004. You expressed concerns related to the implementation of 10 CFR Part 50 Appendix B Quality Assurance Criteria.

The regulatory framework for quality assurance is established by 10 CFR Part 50 Appendix B (Appendix B). The 18 criteria of Appendix B are implemented through quality assurance program descriptions, regulatory guides, and consensus standards such as ANSI N45.2, "Quality Assurance Requirements for Nuclear Facilities," and ASME NQA-1, "Quality Assurance Requirements for Nuclear Facility Applications." The regulatory framework for quality assurance established by Appendix B has worked effectively for 30 years. On July 7, 2003, the staff issued SECY 03-0117, "Approaches for Adopting More Widely Accepted International Quality Standards." This document discussed several improvements to the regulatory framework for quality assurance that have been implemented since the late 1980's. Accordingly, the staff believes that modifications made to the existing regulatory framework for quality assurance over the years have made the current process efficient and effective. A copy of SECY-03-0117 is attached for your information.

We have reviewed your points concerning implementation of certain Appendix B criteria. The NRC was unable to identify any issues that would warrant follow-up by NRC staff. Unless you have specific examples where nuclear plant quality assurance personnel wrote Corrective Action Requests so as to justify their overtime hours and preserve their staffing levels, we consider this issue closed.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Theodore R. Quay, Chief
Plant Support Branch
Division of Inspection Program Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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P.O. Box 3393
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Theodore R. Quay, Chief
Plant Support Branch
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