October 29, 2004

Mr. David Nevius, Executive Vice President North American Electric Reliability Council (NERC) 116-390 Village Boulevard Princeton, New Jersey 08540-5731

SUBJECT: ABBREVIATED VERSION OF THE DRAFT STATUS REPORT CONCERNING THE ASSESSMENT OF GRID OPERATING DATA FOR SIGNS OF CHANGE AND POTENTIAL VULNERABILITIES

Dear Mr. Nevius:

Enclosed for your review and comment is a copy of a draft report entitled "Abbreviated Version of the Draft Status Report Concerning the Assessment of Grid Operating Data for Signs of Change and Potential Vulnerabilities," prepared by the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES). The purpose of this assessment is to review the available grid-related operating data for indications of change, emerging trends, and potential vulnerabilities that might otherwise be masked by investigating only the operating data for the nuclear power plants (NPPs) themselves. Sensitive portions of the report have been omitted from the full report to obtain the abbreviated version.

We are seeking electrical engineering comments in the following areas: (1) the reasonableness of the approach, (2) the appropriateness of the assessment to date as reflected in the executive summary, and (3) additional sources of data that could be used in the assessment. We believe NERC comments will be valuable in helping us plan completion of the task and prepare an interim report for stakeholder review. To meet our planned schedule we would appreciate receiving your comments by December 20, 2003. If you have any questions regarding this report, please feel free to contact William S. Raughley, E-mail: <u>WSR@NRC.GOV</u> (301) 415-7577.

Sincerely,

/**RA**/

Farouk Eltawila, Director Division of Systems Analysis and Regulatory Effectiveness Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

Enclosure: As stated

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