

January 13, 2005

Dr. Mario V. Bonaca, Chairman  
Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC, 20555-0001

SUBJECT: INTERIM LETTER – REGULATORY STRUCTURE FOR NEW PLANT  
LICENSING: TECHNOLOGY-NEUTRAL FRAMEWORK

Dear Dr. Bonaca:

Thank you for your letter of December 9, 2004, regarding the staff's effort on "Regulatory Structure for New Plant Licensing: Technology-Neutral Framework." In SECY-05-0006, "Second Status Paper on the Staff's Proposed Regulatory Structure for New Plant Licensing and Update on Policy Issues Related to New Plant Licensing", dated January 7, 2005, we indicated our intent to complete the development of this technology-neutral framework. We agree that this is a long-term effort and that there are difficult technical and policy issues that are being addressed. We also agree that this work has the potential to provide a more efficient and more coherent regulatory system. We look forward to continued discussion and interaction with the Committee on this effort.

Sincerely,

/RA/  
Luis A. Reyes  
Executive Director  
for Operations

cc: Chairman Diaz  
Commissioner McGaffigan  
Commissioner Merrifield  
SECY

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Executive Director  
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\* See previous concurrence

| OFFICE | *RES/PRAB | *RES/PRAB | *RES/DRAA        | *TechEd |
|--------|-----------|-----------|------------------|---------|
| NAME   | Drouin    | Lew       | Ader/ Cunningham | Garrity |
| DATE   | 1/4/05    | 1/4/05    | 1/4/05           | 1/4/05  |

| OFFICE | RES              | EDO     |
|--------|------------------|---------|
| NAME   | Paperiello/Craig | Reyes   |
| DATE   | 1/10/05          | 1/13/05 |

| <b>ROUTING AND TRANSMITTAL SLIP</b>                             |                     |  |                             | Date             |                              |
|---|---------------------|--|-----------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>TO: (Name, office symbol, room #, building, agency/post)</b> |                     |  |                             | Initials         | Date                         |
| 1. Drouin   |                     |  |                             |                  |                              |
| 2. Lew  |                     |  |                             |                  |                              |
| 3. Ader/Cunningham  |                     |  |                             |                  |                              |
| 4. Garrity  |                     |  |                             |                  |                              |
| 5. Paperiello/Craig   |                     |  |                             |                  |                              |
| 6. Virgilio   |                     |  |                             |                  |                              |
| 7. Merschoff  |                     |  |                             |                  |                              |
| 8. Reyes  |                     |  |                             |                  |                              |
| 9.  |                     |  |                             |                  |                              |
| 10.   |                     |  |                             |                  |                              |
|   | <b>Action</b>       |  | <b>File</b>                 |                  | <b>Note and Return</b>       |
|   | <b>Approval</b>     |  | <b>For Clearance</b>        |                  | <b>Per Conversation</b>      |
|   | <b>As Requested</b> |  | <b>For Correction</b>       |                  | <b>Prepare Reply</b>         |
|   | <b>Circulate</b>    |  | <b>For Your Information</b> |                  | <b>See Me</b>                |
|   | <b>Comment</b>      |  | <b>Investigate</b>          | X                | <b>Concurrence/Signature</b> |
|   | <b>Coordination</b> |  | <b>Justify</b>              |                  |                              |
| <b>REMARKS</b>  |                     |  |                             |                  |                              |
| <b>FROM: (Name, org. symbol, Agency/Post)</b>                   |                     |  |                             | Room # - Bldg.   |                              |
| Patty Nielsen   |                     |  |                             | T-10E50          |                              |
|   |                     |  |                             | Phone # 415-6189 |                              |