

February 25, 2005

Mr. David R. Nevius, Senior Vice President
North American Electric Reliability Council
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:

Thank you for your letter, dated January 13, 2005, in response to our letter and draft report, entitled "Abbreviated Version of the Draft Status Report Concerning the Assessment of Grid Operating Data for Signs of Change and Potential Vulnerabilities," dated October 29, 2004. (See Accession #ML043010469 in the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System.) That assessment uses publicly available operating data compiled by the North American Electric Reliability Council (NERC) as the basis for indications of change, emerging trends, or potential vulnerabilities that might be masked by analyzing the operating data for the nuclear power plants themselves.

Your letter provided comments regarding the reasonableness of the NRC's approach, the appropriateness of the assessment to date, and additional sources of data that the NRC could use in the assessment. You preceded your specific comments with a general comment commending the work and an offer to collaborate to improve the quality of the completed work.

We agree that our organizations need to work together to revise the subject report and issue it for public comment. NERC assistance in the analyses of grid operating and performance data should result in improved understanding, insights, and lessons learned regarding the reliability of the grid as a source of offsite power for nuclear power plants. In addition, all efforts will be consistent with the Memorandum of Agreement between NERC and the NRC, and we will send representatives as needed. Please contact Mr. William S. Raughley (at 301-415-7577 or by email to WSR@nrc.gov) at your convenience to arrange a meeting to further detail the scope and schedule for completing the report.

Sincerely,

/RA/

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

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