January 19, 2006

Graham B. Wallis, Chairman
Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

SUBJECT: DRAFT FINAL GENERIC LETTER 2005-XX, "IMPACT OF POTENTIALLY DEGRADED HEMYC/MT FIRE BARRIER MATERIALS ON COMPLIANCE WITH APPROVED FIRE PROTECTION PROGRAMS"

Dear Dr. Wallis:

I am responding to your December 21, 2005, letter on the draft final generic letter titled, "Impact of Potentially Degraded HEMYC/MT Fire Barrier Materials on Compliance With Approved Fire Protection Programs." The Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) recommended that the proposed generic letter be issued.

Since the Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff position on this topic is the same as the Committee's, we have no comments on the ACRS conclusions. We appreciate the time and effort the Committee devoted to this subject and will schedule a briefing with the Committee after we have reviewed the responses submitted by the licensees. We will continue to work closely with the ACRS on future fire protection issues.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Luis A. Reyes
Executive Director
for Operations

cc: Chairman Diaz
Commissioner McGaffigan
Commissioner Merrifield
Commissioner Jaczko
Commissioner Lyons
SECY

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