

January 11, 2007

Mr. James O. Ellis, Jr., President and  
Chief Executive Officer  
Institute of Nuclear Power Operations  
700 Galleria Parkway, N. W.  
Atlanta, GA 30339-5957

Dear Mr. Ellis:

The purpose of the Operational Safety Assessment Review Team (OSART), established in 1982, is to assist International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Member States in enhancing the operational safety of nuclear power plants, to promote the continuous development of operational safety within all Member States by in-depth review of nuclear power plant operational safety performance, and by the dissemination of information on good practices.

The United States strongly supports the IAEA Operational Safety Program. The IAEA has conducted five OSART Missions in the United States at: (1) Calvert Cliffs (1987), (2) Byron (1989), (3) Grand Gulf (1992), (4) North Anna (1999), and (5) Brunswick (2005). We see participation in OSART program as a further indication to the IAEA and Member States that all countries can learn from independent safety reviews of their nuclear power plants.

In several international forums, including the Convention on Nuclear Safety Review Meeting, the United States has committed to host an OSART mission about once every three years. From an international perspective, the United States would be an outlier if we do not support OSART missions to the United States. However, the NRC cannot mandate that United States nuclear power plants host an OSART mission, and similar to the process that identified Brunswick as a host plant in 2005, we rely on the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations (INPO) to identify plants to host OSART missions.

In order to meet the three year commitment and allow proper planning and preparation for a 2008 United States OSART mission, we request that INPO identify the 2008 host plant by February 1, 2007. IAEA planning and coordination with the host plant will begin 12-18 months prior to the scheduled date of the mission.

We also encourage INPO to identify a host plant or operating organization for the 2011 OSART mission. This will help ensure continuity and provide future United States OSART participants the opportunity to become involved in the OSART process at a United States plant or serve as team members or observers on OSART missions.

NRC is willing to work with United States industry representatives and IAEA to place additional industry representatives on OSART teams as team members or observers in order to provide a

more complete understanding of the OSART process. IAEA has informed NRC of the current planned OSART missions for 2007. The missions are:

|                         |                          |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Loviisa, Finland        | March 5-21               |
| Yonggwang, South Korea  | April 17 -May 4          |
| Tihange, Belgium        | May 7-25                 |
| Neckarwestheim, Germany | October 5-24             |
| Khmelnitsky, Ukraine    | October 29 -November 16  |
| Chinon, France          | November 26 -December 14 |

We look forward to the INPO response.

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Luis A. Reyes  
Executive Director for Operations

J. Ellis

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