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From:

Patrick McCullen

TACs:

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To:

Patrick Hiland

*** YELLOW ***

For Signature of:

Patrick Hiland

Routing:

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Description:

Request for the NRC to Recognize the Test Reports and Calibration Certificates of IAS-Accredited Laboratories on an Equal Basis with NVLAP and A2LA.

Assigned To:

DE

Contact:

HILAND, PATRICK, L

Special Instructions:

Called DE (sent email) on 3/21 at 4:45 p.m. for pick up

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March 3, 2008

Patrick Hiland, Director
Division of Engineering
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
11555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Mr. Hiland:

This pertains to the February 20, 2008, meeting with representatives of the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and U.S.-based accreditation bodies at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).

I represent International Accreditation Service (IAS), a wholly owned subsidiary of the International Code Council (ICC). The International Code Council is a membership association owned and operated by approximately 10,800 city, county and state governmental entities dedicated to building safety and fire prevention. ICC develops the codes used to construct residential and commercial buildings, including homes and schools. Most U.S. cities, counties and states that adopt codes choose the International Family of Codes developed by ICC.

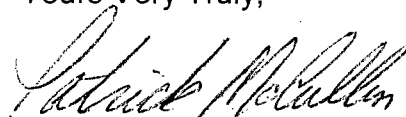
IAS is a signatory to the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) Mutual Recognition Arrangement for the accreditation of testing and calibration laboratories. We are also a signatory to the Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC) MRA for the accreditation of testing and calibration laboratories and inspection bodies. Several IAS-accredited laboratories provide calibration and testing services to the nuclear industry but we have received reports from some laboratories that have encountered difficulties in gaining acceptance of their services despite their IAS-accreditation and IAS's status as an ILAC Signatory.

We understand that the NRC currently recognizes the accreditations of IAS's MRA partners that are ILAC signatories, e.g. the National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program (NVLAP) and the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA). Accordingly, we

respectfully request that the NRC also recognize the test reports and calibration certificates of IAS-accredited laboratories on an equal basis with NVLAP and A2LA. All IAS-accredited laboratories comply with ISO/IEC Standard 17025:2005 and IAS's specific program requirements. In addition, based on information from ILAC, we had advised our laboratories to include information in their certificates/reports required by the NRC's "Nuclear Caveat" for all work related to the nuclear industry. We now understand from the meeting at NIST, that there is a question as to whether this caveat is a NRC requirement. In this regard, we request that you confirm to us if the caveat information is indeed required by NRC so that we can pass this information on to IAS-accredited laboratories.

IAS appreciates the opportunity to have participated in the February 20, 2008, meeting at NIST with the NRC and to be of service to the NRC and the nuclear industry. We hope that there will be some acknowledgement from the NRC as regards the acceptance of IAS-accredited laboratories with respect to nuclear industry work under your jurisdiction.

Yours Very Truly,



Patrick McCullen
Vice President

Cc: NRC Document Control Desk
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Washington D.C. 20555-0001