

April, 18, 2008

Mr. Doug Walters, Senior Director
Operations Support
Nuclear Energy Institute
1776 I Street NW, Suite 400
Washington D.C. 20006-3708

Dear Mr. Walters:

Thank you for presenting at the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) 20th annual Regulatory Information Conference (RIC), March 11 – 13, 2008, in Rockville, Maryland. This year, over 2200 participants from over 25 different countries were in attendance.

Your presentation on "Increased Openness and Transparency in Security," provided important information on how you and your organization views the NRC's current level of openness and transparency associated with security-related information. Furthermore, your insights and discussion during the session significantly contributed to our understanding of the industry's perspective on openness.

As you know, we are committed to gathering additional views from other external stakeholders as well as those gained during this RIC session to better inform our future recommendation to the Commission. Prior to this recommendation though, we will solicit public comment by conducting public meetings throughout the United States and through the use of a *Federal Register* notice. Furthermore based on the current level of interest both internal and external to the NRC, we are confident that this is the right time to again evaluate the balance between the public's right to be informed and the need to control sensitive security-related information.

We believe that this year's RIC and, in particular, our openness session was a resounding success. Much of this success can be directly attributed to the commitment and support we received from individuals like you. The discussions we shared during our session allowed us to effectively meet the challenges of developing some consensus amongst a diverse group of participants. It also provided a unique opportunity for all panel and audience members to share their concerns regarding their current level of openness and transparency we have applied to security-related information.

All final presentation slides and questions that were not addressed during the conference are being compiled and will be posted on the NRC's RIC website at <http://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/conference-symposia/ric/>. Again, thank you for your participation as it was instrumental in making our session such a success.

Sincerely,

Roy P. Zimmerman, Director /RA/
Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response

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Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response

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