

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: / /

EDO CONTROL: G20080211

DOC DT: / /

FINAL REPLY:

Marvin S. Fertel
Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI)

TO:

Chairman Klein.

FOR SIGNATURE OF :

** GRN **

CRC NO: 08-0176

DESC:

Industry New Plant Status and Briefing - Project
#689 (EDATS: SECY-2008-0180)

ROUTING:

Reyes
Virgilio
Kane
Ash
Ordaz
Cyr/Burns

DATE: 03/27/08

ASSIGNED TO:

CONTACT:

NRO

Borchardt

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

Appropriate Action.

Template: SECY-017

E-Ross: SECY-01

Marvin S. Fertel
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT AND
CHIEF NUCLEAR OFFICER

March 14, 2008

The Honorable Dale E. Klein
Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mail Stop O 16 C1
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Subject: Industry New Plant Status and Briefing

Project Number: 689

Dear Chairman Klein:

The industry appreciates the focused Commission attention, direction and oversight on new nuclear plant projects in recent years.

On February 20, 2008 the Commission was briefed on advanced reactor designs that are under development. The industry supports these advanced reactor activities, especially the development of an innovative risk-informed, performance-based process for licensing non-light-water reactors, as a long term endeavor. We agree with the Commission and NRC management statements that the prime focus for new nuclear plant licensing should be on near-term deployment, new plants that will come on-line in the next 8 to 12 years. It is important to show progress on licensing near-term projects before embarking on the licensing of non-light-water reactor designs.

In the last six months we have passed several new plant licensing milestones. Six combined license applications and two additional design certification applications have been submitted to the NRC for review and approval. The NRC has issued one early site permit, accepted four combined license applications, two design certification applications and one design certification amendment. In the next three months we expect several more combined license applications will be filed.

The last Commission briefing on new plant near-term deployment was in October 2007. We believe that it would be beneficial to arrange another such briefing in the Spring 2008 time frame, to discuss the status of COL reviews, the implementation of a COL once the license is issued, implementing improvements to the Part 52 process based on lessons learned from the first four early site permits, and insights from the first COL application reviews.

*see SECY
3/26/08
slm*

The Honorable Dale E. Klein
March 14, 2008
Page 2

We again thank the Commission for the attention being given to new nuclear plant licensing activities and for considering this suggestion. If you have any questions, please contact me at 202-739-8125.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marvin S. Fertel".

Marvin S. Fertel

c: The Honorable Peter B. Lyons, Commissioner, NRC
The Honorable Gregory B. Jaczko, Commissioner, NRC
Mr. Luis A. Reyes, Executive Director for Operations, NRC
Mr. R. William Borchardt, Director, Office of New Reactors, NRC