August 1, 2008

SUBJECT: SOLICITATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS ON IMPROVING THE LEVEL OF OPENNESS AND TRANSPARENCY ASSOCIATED WITH THE NRC SECURITY INSPECTION PROGRAM AND NRC ASSESSMENT OF LICENSEE SECURITY PERFORMANCE

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is seeking to improve the level of openness and transparency associated with the NRC security inspection program and its assessment of licensee security performance. The NRC views nuclear regulation as the public's business and, as such, believes it should be transacted as openly and candidly as possible to maintain and enhance the public's confidence. Ensuring appropriate openness explicitly recognizes that the public must be informed about, and have a reasonable opportunity to participate meaningfully in, the NRC's regulatory processes. At the same time, the NRC must also control sensitive information so that security goals are met. This vision is described in the NRC's Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2008-2013, NUREG-1614, Volume 4, February 2008 (http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/nuregs/staff/sr1614/v4/).

To inform the NRC's decision on possible ways to enhance the level of openness and transparency associated with security-related inspection and licensee performance assessment information, the staff is requesting feedback from the public and other external stakeholders. A summary of the feedback obtained will be provided on the NRC's Website and provided to the Commission.

The enclosed *Federal Register* Notice (FRN) provides background on changes that have occurred to the level of openness and transparency since the terrorist events of September 11, 2001. The FRN also provides options for stakeholder consideration and seeks public comment on ways to potentially increase openness and transparency of security-related inspection and licensee performance assessment information. An electronic version of the FRN and additional background information may be obtained from http://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/doc-comment.html#3. The FRN requests and provides instructions on how to transmit comments by September 5, 2008.

Thank you for your interest in our security openness effort.

/RA/

Daniel H. Dorman, Director
Division of Security Operations
Office of Nuclear Security and
Incident Response

Enclosure: *Federal Register* Notice

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