



NUCLEAR ENERGY INSTITUTE

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March 4, 2009

Mr. E. William Brach
Director
Division of Spent Fuel Storage and Transportation
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Subject: NRC/Industry Meeting of November 21, 2008

Project Code: 689

Dear Mr. Brach,

On November 21, 2008, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI)¹ and industry met to discuss the level of detail necessary in the shielding and radiation protection chapters of dry-cask storage and transportation Safety Analysis Reports (SARs). The goal of the meeting was to work toward a common understanding between the industry and the NRC staff and, in so doing, improve the efficiency of the licensing process. This meeting was intended to be the first step in a multi-faceted effort to engage in constructive dialogue between the NRC staff and the industry that will ultimately yield a more efficient licensing process that benefits both the NRC and stakeholders.

At the end of the meeting, the industry was assigned an action item to provide written proposals to the NRC regarding five topics pertaining to the shielding and radiation protection reviews. The attachment to this letter contains industry's proposals on these topics. In addition to the five topics agreed to, a sixth, which was also discussed in the November 21 meeting, has been added. The six topics covered in the attachment are the following:

¹ NEI is the organization responsible for establishing unified nuclear industry policy on matters affecting the nuclear energy industry. NEI's members include all utilities licensed to operate commercial nuclear power plants in the United States, nuclear plant designers, major architect/engineering firms, fuel fabrication facilities, nuclear material licensees, and other organizations and individuals involved in the nuclear energy industry.

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- Level of detail in the FSAR
- Bounding calculations and results
- Definition of a small change versus a small effect
- Burnup and cooling time versus heat load limits in the CoC
- Technical specification dose rates
- Computer codes

Industry appreciates your staff's willingness to give these proposals due consideration and we look forward to the staff's response. If, during the development of the response, your staff determines that they would benefit from another public meeting with industry, NEI will be pleased to coordinate industry's participation.

One of the presentations given by the NRC on November 21 was on high-quality applications. This presentation provided a good overview of the NRC's expectations but did not provide concrete examples of recent deficiencies. Therefore, we request that your staff communicate to industry detailed examples that will aid the dry storage system vendors in their quest to improve the quality of their applications.

NEI and the nuclear industry appreciate your efforts and those of your staff and we look forward to continued interaction as we collectively endeavor to improve the efficiency of the licensing process.

Please do not hesitate to call me or Dr. Everett L. Redmond II (202-739-8122; elr@nei.org) if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Steven P. Kraft

Enclosure

c: Mr. Michael Weber, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Ms. Catherine Haney, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mr. Nader Mamish, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mr. Raymond Lorson, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mr. Larry Campbell, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mr. Earl Easton, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mr. Michael Scott, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission