



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

November 13, 1998

Dr. William D. Travers
Executive Director for Operations
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Dear Dr. Travers:

SUBJECT: PROPOSED INSPECTION PROCEDURE 35XXX, "GRADED QUALITY ASSURANCE"

During the 457th meeting of the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, November 4-7, 1998, we reviewed the proposed inspection procedure, which provides guidance for baseline, programmatic inspection of the adequacy of licensee's implementation of graded quality assurance (GQA) programs. During this review, we had the benefit of discussions with representatives of the NRC staff. We also had the benefit of the document referenced.

The general guidance in the proposed inspection procedure requires that GQA programs have a process for determining the safety significance of systems, structures, and components in a reasonable and consistent manner, including the use of both traditional engineering and probabilistic evaluations. Further, the procedure provides for a targeted, reactive inspection to assess actions taken by the licensees in response to failures of components that are subject to GQA controls.

We find the proposed procedure to be adequate for performing an evaluation of the appropriateness and effectiveness of a licensee's GQA program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. L. Seale".

R. L. Seale
Chairman

Reference:

Memorandum dated September 29, 1998, from Michael R. Johnson, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, to Addressees, transmitting Draft Inspection Procedure 35XXX, "Graded Quality Assurance."