

July 10, 2009

Mr. James O. Ellis, Jr., President and Chief Executive Officer  
Institute of Nuclear Power Operations  
700 Galleria Parkway, SE.  
Suite 100  
Atlanta, GA 30339-5943

Dear Mr. Ellis:

The purpose of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Operational Safety Review Team (OSART) program is to assist Member States in improving operational safety at nuclear power plants, and to promote the continuous development of operational safety within all Member States through the dissemination of information on good practices. The United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) strongly supports the OSART program, which has conducted OSART missions at the following six U.S. plants:

- (1) Calvert Cliffs (1987)
- (2) Byron (1989)
- (3) Grand Gulf (1992)
- (4) North Anna (1999)
- (5) Brunswick (2005)
- (6) Arkansas Nuclear One (2008)

The NRC views participation in the OSART program as further indication to IAEA and Member States that all countries can learn from independent safety reviews of their nuclear power plants.

In several international forums, the United States has committed to hosting an OSART mission approximately every 3 years. From an international perspective, the United States would be considered an outlier if it did not support OSART missions to the United States. However, the NRC cannot require United States nuclear power plants to host an OSART mission. Instead, we rely on the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations (INPO) to find plants to host OSART missions, as it did in identifying Arkansas Nuclear One to serve as the host plant in 2008.

To meet the NRC's 3-year commitment and to allow for proper preparation for a 2011 OSART mission to the United States, the NRC needs INPO's help in identifying the 2011 host plant by September 4, 2009. Typically, IAEA begins planning and coordination with the host plant 12-18 months before the scheduled date of the mission.

We also encourage INPO to consider a host plant or operating organization for the 2014 OSART mission. This would allow for continuity and provide future United States OSART participants the opportunity to become involved in the process at a United States plant, or to serve as members or observers on OSART missions.

To provide a more complete understanding of the OSART process, the NRC is willing to work with the U.S. nuclear industry and IAEA to place additional industry representatives on OSART teams. The following 2010 OSART missions are available for participation:

- Mihama (Japan), January 19 – February 5, 2010
- Oskarshamn (Sweden), February 15 – March 5, 2010
- Fessenheim (France), March 22 – April 8, 2010
- South Ukraine (Ukraine), October 25 – November 11, 2010

We look forward to your response. Please contact Andy Barrett at [Andy.Barrett@NRC.GOV](mailto:Andy.Barrett@NRC.GOV) should you have any questions or require additional detail.

Sincerely,

***/RA Bruce S. Mallett for/***

R. W. Borchardt  
Executive Director  
for Operations

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