

October 6, 2009

Ellen C. Ginsberg, Vice President,
General Counsel and Secretary
Nuclear Energy Institute
1776 I Street, NW, Suite 400
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Ms. Ginsberg:

I am responding to your letter dated August 14, 2009, by which you submitted to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) a request to extend the public comment period on a proposed rule updating the Commission's 1996 findings on the environmental impacts of license renewal, and draft revisions to several important guidance documents including NUREG-1437, *Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) for License Renewal of Nuclear Power Plants* and Regulatory Guide 4.2, Supplement 1, *Preparation of Environmental Reports for Nuclear Power Plant License Renewal Applications*. You respectfully requested that the NRC staff extend the public comment period on this matter from October 14, 2009, until December 14, 2009, an extension of 61 days for a total of 136 days.

We received two other letters requesting an extension of the public comment period, one from Ms. Deborah Brancato on behalf of Riverkeeper, Inc., and the other from Representative Lois Capps, 23rd District of California, both requesting an extension of 90 days.

The NRC wants members of the public to have sufficient time to provide the agency with constructive comments that will improve the quality of these regulations as well as the license renewal process. The NRC recognizes that there is a large amount of information associated with their rulemaking, and is extending the comment period for the proposed rulemaking for an additional 90 days to allow more time for review. Based on feedback from stakeholders, the NRC believes that a 90-day extension will allow sufficient time for all stakeholders to develop and provide meaningful comments on these documents.

The proposed rule, regulatory analysis, related guidance documents (including the Generic Environmental Impact Statement, the Environmental Standard Review Plan, and Regulatory Guide), and information collection analysis comment submittal deadline is extended from the original October 14, 2009, deadline to January 12, 2010. Further details are discussed in the

- 2 -

enclosed extension of comment period notice, which will be published in the *Federal Register*. Any questions you may have regarding this matter should be directed to Jason A. Lising, by calling 301-415-3220 or by e-mail to Jason.Lising@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Annette L. Vietti-Cook

Enclosure:
Federal Register Notice

cc: A. Cottingham, NEI