



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

March 10, 2010

Mr. Alexander Marion, Vice President
Nuclear Operations
Nuclear Energy Institute
1776 I Street, NW, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20006-3708

SUBJECT: DRAFT INTERIM STAFF GUIDANCE 6, DIGITAL INSTRUMENTATION AND
CONTROLS LICENSING PROCESS

Dear Mr. Marion:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has issued a new draft of Interim Staff Guidance (ISG)-6, "Digital Instrumentation and Controls Licensing Process," for public comment. The document was included as an enclosure to a notice of public meeting to discuss comments (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System Accession No. ML093491083). The date and time for the meeting will be March 24, 2010, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in room O-7-B4 of the NRC Headquarters, One White Flint North complex. The date and time for the meeting was coordinated with Mr. Gordon Clefton of your staff.

The draft document has been revised to incorporate the lessons learned from the NRC's recent review and approval of a digital instrumentation and control upgrade for the reactor protection system and engineered safety features actuation system at the Oconee Nuclear Station and other recent licensing actions. The purpose of the public meeting is to continue interactions with interested stakeholders on the technical content of the draft ISG document.

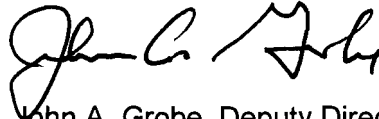
In addition to comments on the technical content, the NRC staff would also like to receive specific comments on the type and amount of information that the draft ISG currently proposes to be submitted as part of a license amendment request. As the NRC continues to gain experience with the review of digital safety systems and the use of the draft ISG processes, the NRC staff, guided by the content of Chapter 7 of the Standard Review Plan, will evaluate the efficacy of utilizing a phased review process that divides review of a digital system for compliance with the regulations into documentation reviews, audit, and inspection activities. The NRC staff would like to hear stakeholder views on what documentation should be docketed as part of the digital safety system's design documentation reviews, and what documentation is appropriate for audit or inspection.

A. Marion

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The NRC plans to pilot the new ISG-6 process once approved, and stakeholder comments will be beneficial to our evaluation of the phased review concept and in evaluating the feasibility of this process. If you have any questions, please contact me at 301-415-1274.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John A. Grobe". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a distinct "G" at the end.

John A. Grobe, Deputy Director
for Engineering and Corporate Support
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc: See next page

Nuclear Energy Institute
DI&C-ISG-06 and DI&C SC

Project No. 689

cc:

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Sincerely,

/ra/

John A. Grobe, Deputy Director
for Engineering and Corporate Support
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc: See next page

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