



NUCLEAR ENERGY INSTITUTE

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June 24, 2011

Mr. David B. Matthews
Director, Division of New Reactor Licensing
Office of New Reactors
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Subject: Changes during Construction

Project Number: 689

Dear Mr. Matthews:

Attached for NRC review and consideration is revised draft industry guidance on the process for making changes during construction (CdC) that require a license amendment. Since submitting the previous draft of this guidance in February, we have had two public meetings with the staff to “tabletop” the Preliminary Acceptability Review (PAR) process, and the attachment reflects modifications and clarifications based on those discussions. Most significantly, this revision includes guidance on the content of license amendment requests (LARs) that are required solely to conform Tier 1/ITAAC to changes to the facility or procedures described in the FSAR—so-called conforming LARs. This revision also incorporates NRC comments provided in a letter dated May 11, 2011.

We are providing the attached guidance as input to the staff’s development of Interim Staff Guide 25 on changes during construction under 10 CFR Part 52. We understand that the staff will issue the draft ISG shortly for public comment and will provide a public meeting opportunity to tabletop additional plant change scenarios and consider adjustments to the guidance as needed. Through our continuing interactions, we have a common interest in establishing a clear and workable PAR/LAR process, including clear and consistent guidance for use by both licensees and the NRC staff.

When completed, we plan to incorporate the industry’s CdC guidance into new Appendix C to NEI 96-07, which will provide comprehensive guidance on the change processes for new plants licensed under Part 52. To support expected use of the CdC process, we are committed to working with the staff to assure that necessary guidance is in place as soon as possible to support licensees upon issuance of their COLs later this year.

Mr. David B. Matthews

June 24, 2011

Page 2

We appreciate the constructive series of interactions with you and others of the NRC staff on this important issue. If you have any questions about the attached draft guidance, please contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "RJB", is positioned above the printed name.

Russell J. Bell

Attachment

c: Ms. Laura Dudes, NRO/DCIP, NRC
Mr. William F. Burton, NRO/DNRL/DDIP/NR, NRC
Mr. Earl R. Libby, NRO/DNRL/DDIP/NR, NRC
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