

October 4, 2011

Mr. Russell J. Bell, Director, New Plant Licensing  
Nuclear Energy Institute  
Nuclear Generation Division  
1776 I Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20006-3708

SUBJECT: INDUSTRY PROPOSAL TO EXPAND THE NRC'S CURRENT ACCEPTANCE  
OF THIRD-PARTY ACCREDITATION OF DOMESTIC CALIBRATION  
LABORATORIES FOR PURPOSES OF COMMERCIAL GRADE DEDICATION

Dear Mr. Bell:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to your letter dated September 16, 2011, regarding your request for NRC support for an industry proposal to expand the NRC's current acceptance of third-party accreditation of domestic calibration laboratories for purposes of commercial grade dedication. Your proposal seeks to expand the acceptability of third-party accreditation to include both domestic and international calibration and testing laboratories accredited under the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC). You also stated that NEI plans to submit a document in 2012 for NRC endorsement that provides guidance on the use of the ILAC process during commercial-grade dedication.

We support, in principle, an expansion of ILAC third-party accreditation to include both domestic and international calibration and testing laboratories. However, there are certain aspects of your proposal that require further clarification. For example, the role and responsibility of the nuclear industry, through organizations such as the Nuclear Procurement Issues Committee, in the continued oversight of the ILAC accreditation process needs to be further explored. Accordingly, we look forward to continue the dialogue and gain a better understanding of the process industry plans to adopt to allow NRC endorsement.

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Laura A. Dudes, Director  
Division of Construction Inspection  
& Operational Programs  
Office of New Reactors

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