



NUCLEAR ENERGY INSTITUTE

Anthony R. Pietrangelo
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT AND
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June 1, 2012

Mr. Eric J. Leeds
Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Subject: NRC's Regulatory Information Conference

Project Number: 689

Dear Mr. Leeds:

In the aftermath of the General Services Administration conference scandal, we understand that federal agencies may be requested to justify large conferences and off-site meetings they hold. The purpose of this letter is to provide an industry perspective on the value of the NRC's annual Regulatory Information Conference (RIC). We strongly support continuation of the RIC for the reasons outlined below.

The Nuclear Energy Institute's¹ membership of more than 400 companies includes the owners/operators of the 104 commercial nuclear energy plants in the U.S., reactor vendors, nuclear fuel suppliers, and a broad spectrum of firms that provide products and services supporting the beneficial uses of nuclear technology. The RIC is a long-standing annual conference that provides industry stakeholders as well as numerous other NRC stakeholders a unique opportunity to interact with NRC commissioners, the staff, and colleagues from around the world. Participants hear directly from each of the commissioners on policy matters facing the Commission and are also able to attend breakout sessions and hear panels of experts discuss a range safety and security issues. Many of our members participate on these panels along with NRC personnel and other stakeholders. This mix of views and perspectives results in healthy dialogue on issues facing the industry today. Audience members are also afforded the opportunity to ask questions and express their own views. In

¹ NEI is the organization responsible for establishing unified nuclear industry policy on matters affecting the nuclear energy industry, including the regulatory aspects of generic operational and technical issues. NEI's members include all utilities licensed to operate commercial nuclear power plants in the United States, nuclear plant designers, major architect/engineering firms, fuel fabrication facilities, materials licensees, and other organizations and individuals involved in the nuclear energy industry.

Mr. Eric J. Leeds

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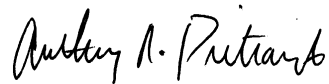
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addition, we commend the NRC practice of posting to your website the questions and answers received in all the breakout sessions.

The conference brings together a diverse group of individuals including those working in state and local governments, nuclear safety regulators from other countries, advocacy groups, the media, licensees and vendors. The networking opportunities and the new relationships that are established results in significant sharing of information. That is important for our industry and to the transparency necessary for effective regulatory oversight.

The RIC reflects the NRC's commitment to working openly, and the dialogue that takes place is essential to the development of informed policymaking. We appreciate the value that the RIC provides and look forward to future annual conferences.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Anthony R. Pietrangelo". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A' and 'P'.

Anthony R. Pietrangelo