



Russell J. Bell
DIRECTOR
NEW PLANT LICENSING

July 18, 2012

Ms. Amy E. Cubbage
Branch Chief, Policy Branch
Division of Advanced Reactor and Rulemaking Program
Office of New Reactors
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Subject: Submittal of *Plant Engineering: Guideline for the Acceptance of Commercial-Grade Design and Analysis Computer Programs Used in Nuclear Safety-Related Applications* (EPRI, Palo Alto, CA: 2012. 1025243)

Project Code: 689

Dear Ms. Cubbage:

The industry guidance document, *Plant Engineering: Guideline for the Acceptance of Commercial-Grade Design and Analysis Computer Programs Used in Nuclear Safety-Related Applications* (EPRI, Palo Alto, CA: 2012. 1025243), is attached for NRC review. NEI requests endorsement in an NRC Regulatory Guide.

The subject document provides generic guidance intended to assist licensees and nuclear suppliers regarding the acceptance of commercial-grade computer programs for use in safety-related applications.

NRC representatives and the following organizations participated in the development of EPRI 1025243:

- ASME NQA-1 Subcommittee on Software Quality Assurance
- EPRI Joint Utility Task Group (JUTG)
- Nuclear Information Technology Strategic Leadership (NITSL)
- Nuclear Procurement Issues Committee (NUPIC)

We propose that after resolving any NRC comments on the subject document, the NRC initiate the regulatory guide endorsement process and provide a letter to NEI indicating that the guidance is

Ms. Amy E. Cabbage

July 18, 2012

Page 2

consistent with the staff's views regarding safety classification and methods for acceptance of commercial-grade design and analysis computer programs used in nuclear safety-related applications. To enable this guidance to be implemented as soon as practicable, including potential updates to NUPIC supplier audit checklists, such a letter or NRC comments are requested by November 1, 2012.

If you or the NRC staff has questions, please contact Mark Harvey (910-441-8866, mwh@nei.org) or me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "RJ Bell", enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Russell J. Bell

Attachment

c: Ms. Kerri A. Kavanagh, NRO/DCIP/CQAB, NRC