

May 11, 2017

Mr. William Gross
Director, Incident Preparedness
Nuclear Energy Institute
1201 F Street, NW, Suite 1100
Washington, D.C. 2004

Dear Mr. Gross:

Thank you for your letter dated May 2, 2017, which provided additional information to Attachments 2 and 3 of the Nuclear Energy Institute's (NEI's) January 26, 2017, letter providing recommendations for the force-on-force (FOF) inspection program. Your May letter was submitted in response to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff's request, during the public and closed meetings on April 20, 2017, for more information on NEI's recommendations. Your letter and feedback from the meeting will be considered as the staff develops the response to Staff Requirements Memorandum (SRM) – SECY-16-0073, "Options and Recommendations for the Force-on-Force inspection Program in Response to SRM-SECY-14-0088."

Regarding NEI's recommendation for conducting a defense-in-depth FOF exercise, you stated in your letter that "based on staff feedback provided in the April 20 meeting, the industry understands that the proposed demonstration of site protective strategy defense-in-depth during a FOF exercise inspection may not be feasible." Please note that the staff has not formed any conclusions on the feasibility of NEI's recommendations. The purpose of the staff's questions at the meeting was to elicit further details on the recommendations so as to gain a better understanding. As we presented at the meeting, the staff is currently considering three options for FOF exercises: maintain two exercises and implement identified efficiencies, reduction to one FOF exercise, and one FOF exercise with the second exercise as a defense-in-depth event. The input from NEI and other stakeholders will be carefully considered as we further develop and assess the pros and cons of these options, or any other options that may subsequently emerge.

Thank you again for your feedback. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Clay Johnson, Security Performance and Evaluation Branch at Clay.Johnson@NRC.GOV 301-287-3688 or you may contact me at (301) 287-3778 or at marissa.bailey@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Marissa G. Bailey, Director
Division of Security Operations
Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response

SUBJECT: ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF NUCLEAR ENERGY INSTITUTE LETTER DATED
May 2, 2017. DATED: May 11, 2017

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