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Washington, DC 20585

UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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OFFICE OF SECRETARY  
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Secretary  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Attention: Chief, Docketing and  
Service Branch  
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Sir:

This letter is to provide the Department of Energy's (DOE) comments on the Federal Register Notice (55 FR 42947) published on October 24, 1990. The notice requested public comment on proposed amendments to 10 CFR Part 2 resulting from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) decision to abolish the Atomic Safety and Licensing Appeal Panel as an intermediate layer of appellate review of Licensing Board decisions.

DOE has reviewed this notice and supports the NRC proposal to adopt a discretionary review system of Licensing Board decisions. We also support using the less prescriptive review standard described in the notice, which is similar to the standard which applied when the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board was established. We believe that this NRC initiative to streamline the review process will allow for more timely resolution of issues raised by parties to the licensing process.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this Federal Register Notice.

Sincerely,

*William H. Young*  
William H. Young  
Assistant Secretary  
for Nuclear Energy

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