

Mr. William H. Rasin
 Vice President & Director,
 Technical Division
 Nuclear Energy Institute
 1776 Eye Street, N. W.
 Washington, DC 20006-2496

JUN 14 1994

Dear Mr. Rasin:

This is to inform you that we have received your white paper on implications of the latest seismic hazard results published by the NRC staff in draft NUREG-1488, "Seismic Hazard Characterization of 69 Nuclear Plant Sites East of the Rocky Mountains." The public comment period for NUREG-1488 closed on February 28, 1994. There were no technical comments offered; consequently, the final NUREG-1488 was published in April, 1994 without any change in the results. We are reviewing your paper in conjunction with the NUREG-1488 results to determine the extent of the changes that will be necessary for the grouping of plants and the scope of examination for external events.

We have issued a generic communication (Information Notice 94-32) informing all licensees and construction permit holders that any modification in the scope of examination for external events by the NRC will neither necessitate a revision nor have any impact on efforts by the licensees who have completed their work, are near completion, or plan to proceed with the current guidance, of Generic Letter (GL) 88-20, Supplement 4 and NUREG-1407.

The NRC staff is working to develop another supplement to GL 88-20 which will address the many possible changes in scope of the seismic portion of the Individual Plant Evaluation for External Events program. We intend to have a public workshop to solicit comment on the supplement prior to issuing it. In the interim, the staff will continue to address specific issues on which individual licensees may need additional clarification.

Should you need additional information on this, please contact Goutam Bagchi of my staff at (301) 504-2733.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Ashok C. Thadani, Associate Director
 for Inspection and Technical Assessment
 Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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*See previous concurrence

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