

**North
Atlantic**

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No reply needed
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The Northeast Utilities System

Ted C. Feigenbaum
Senior Vice President &
Chief Nuclear Officer

September 25, 1995

NA #950412
NYN-95076

50-443

Mr. William T. Russell
Director, Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
One White Flint North
11555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Mr. Russell,

I wanted to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for you taking the time to meet with Harry Haynes, Richard Kacich, and myself on September 14, 1995. We will continue to reflect on your insights and observations as we proceed forward with the re-engineering effort of our nuclear group, keeping in mind the importance of consistency and cooperation across all five units. The discussion certainly involved many topics of importance to Northeast Utilities beyond the re-engineering effort, and I thought it might be beneficial to recap some of the key points.

First, you can be assured that we fully appreciate the importance of having all of our employees feel confident that any concerns they express will be dealt with in a responsible and timely way. Notwithstanding the significant efforts we have expended in this area for quite some time, we fully understand that increased attentiveness and sensitivity to employee issues at the early stages could help to reduce concerns brought to the NRC's attention.

Second, our discussion will cause us to revisit the implementation plans and schedules for Improved Standard Technical Specifications for our units. As a result of our discussion, we appreciate better some of the issues we need to consider in our evaluation to move forward on an expedited basis. Knowing more about the budgetary pressures the NRC is facing and how you intend to deal with them also helps us optimize our course of action.

Thirdly, we will certainly take to heart your comments regarding the NRC's application of enforcement discretion, and will conduct business accordingly while we seek expanded operating flexibility in our license that the agency has deemed appropriate on a standardized basis. At the same time, we would hope that safety considerations will continue to dominate the decision making process for all the issues that either or both of our organizations deal with.

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Mr. William T. Russell
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

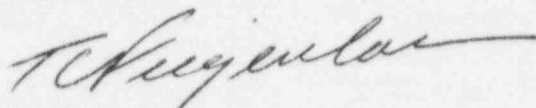
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Fourth, we were pleased to hear your perspective about our plans for improving our nuclear oversight functions. Significantly increased emphasis will be placed on self-assessment, and we hope to transition a greater fraction of our oversight resources from one that is compliance and programmatically driven to one that is performance driven and customized to address unique issues at each plant.

Thank you again for your insights and observations during our meeting; I and others of the NU management team would welcome similar opportunities to continue these discussions.

Very truly yours,



T. C. Feigenbaum

cc: R. P. Zimmerman

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