

November 14, 2001

Mr. Ralph E. Beedle
Senior Vice President and
Chief Nuclear Officer
Nuclear Energy Institute
1776 I Street, NW, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20006-3708

Dear Mr. Beedle:

This letter responds to your letter dated September 28, 2001, regarding revisions to the DD-214 guidance in NUMARC 89-01, Appendix of Regulatory Guide 5.66, "Access Authorization Program for Nuclear Power Plants."

Currently, licensees obtain a copy of the DD-214 through the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) which can take from 7 to 33 months. However, the NRC agrees that licensees can use alternate methods of obtaining this information discussed below given that licensees change their security plans using the 10 CFR 50.54(p) process. One method would allow the individual with temporary access to hand carry an authenticated copy (original signature, raised seal of the issuing authority) of the DD-214 to the licensee. A second method would permit other military record custodians (e.g., the branches of the military services) to provide authenticated copies of the DD-214 directly to licensees. A third method, in lieu of an authenticated DD-214, would allow a copy marked "certified true" which had a raised seal to be sent directly to licensees by the certifying authority.

These practices would expedite the closure of the background investigation. The staff has determined that licensees can affect the change to their security plan using the 10 CFR 50.54 (p) process which does not require prior staff approval. NRC regional offices have verbally updated licensees on these alternate methods for obtaining the DD-214. Nevertheless, licensees would still need to request the original DD-214 from NPRC in order to provide high assurance that the DD-214 provided via alternate methods was valid.

The NRC staff is currently finalizing DD-214 guidance as part of its review and possible endorsement of NEI 99-08, the proposed revision to NUMARC 89-01. Such endorsement of NEI 99-08 would be included in Revision 1 to Regulatory Guide 5.66. Therefore, we do not believe that "pen and ink" revisions are appropriate at this time.

Please contact me or Alan Madison (301-415-1490) of my staff if you have any questions regarding my response.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Samuel J. Collins, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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*SEE PREVIOUS CONCURRENCE.

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