

June 27, 2003

Mr. Alex Marion
Director of Engineering
Nuclear Energy Institute
1776 I Street, N.W., Suite 400
Washington, DC 20006-3708

SUBJECT: RESOURCE NEEDS FOR LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION REVIEWS

Dear Mr. Marion:

We appreciate your June 2, 2003, letter responding to our April 18, 2003, request for input on the impacts of a Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff consideration of limiting the number of license renewal applications (LRAs) under review at any one time. As discussed in further detail at the May 16, 2003, meeting between the Nuclear Energy Institute's (NEI's) License Renewal Working Group and the NRC's License Renewal Steering Committee, resource needs for license renewal are increasing, and a proposed limit on the LRAs under review is being considered to help ensure that sufficient resources are available to continue other established product lines and better balance resources among critical programs.

We are continuing to assess projected resource needs for license renewal and other NRC programs as part of our budget interactions with the Commission and anticipate a decision on the license renewal budget by August 2003. The input provided in your letter is being considered as part of this process. Although the June 19, 2003, senior management meeting referenced in your letter has been postponed until August 8, 2003, we agree that it would be beneficial to discuss the limitation of NRR resources and what the impact of shifting staff resources to LRA reviews would have on other important regulatory activities.

For applicants after September 2004, your letter described a process for establishing submittal slots in each fiscal year and a proposed method of administering the process. The NRC staff agrees that establishing slots for future submittals could help alleviate the uncertainty and variation in resource needs that currently exists and would provide more predictability in the planning process for both the NRC and future applicants. We look forward to discussing your proposed process in further detail and will contact you to arrange a meeting.

A. Marion

2

We have a mutual interest in achieving further efficiencies in the license renewal process and look forward to interacting with NEI and other interested stakeholders to pursue these efficiencies.

Sincerely,
/RA/

Pao-Tsin Kuo, Program Director
License Renewal and Environmental Impacts Program
Division of Regulatory Improvements Programs
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Project 690

cc: See next page

A. Marion

2

We have a mutual interest in achieving further efficiencies in the license renewal process and look forward to interacting with NEI and other interested stakeholders to pursue these efficiencies.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Pao-Tsin Kuo, Program Director
License Renewal and Environmental Impacts Program
Division of Regulatory Improvements Programs
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Project 690

cc: See next page

Distribution: See next page

Accession no.: **ML031810142**

*See previous concurrence

DOCUMENT NAME: C:\ORPCheckout\FileNET\ML031810142.wpd

| | | | | | |
|--------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------------|--------------|
| OFFICE | RLEP:DRIP | RLEP:DRIP | RLEP:DRIP:SC:LR | RLEP:DRIP:PD | DRIP: OD |
| NAME | S. Hoffman* | Y. Edmonds* | S. Lee* | P.T. Kuo*(SSLee for) | D. Matthews* |
| DATE | 6/26/03 | 6/26/03 | 6/26/03 | 6/27/03 | 6/27/03 |

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

DISTRIBUTION: NEI Ltr to A. Marion Dated: June 27, 2003

ML031810142

HARD COPY

RLEP RF

Project Manager

E-MAIL:

PUBLIC

W. Borchardt

D. Matthews

F. Gillespie

C. Grimes

RidsNrrDe

E. Imbro

G. Bagchi

K. Manoly

W. Bateman

J. Calvo

P. Shemanski

H. Nieh

H. Walker

S. Black

B. Boger

D. Thatcher

R. Pettis

G. Galletti

C. Li

J. Moore

R. Weisman

M. Mayfield

A. Murphy

W. McDowell

S. Smith (srs3)

S. Duraiswamy

C. Munson

RLEP Staff

A. Thadani

C. Julian

R. Gardner

M. Farber

M. Modes

J. Vora

L. Kozak

R. Correia

T. Dietz

J. Yerokun

NUCLEAR ENERGY INSTITUTE

Project No. 690

cc:

Mr. Joe Bartell
U.S. Department of Energy
NE-42
Washington, DC 20585

Ms. Christine S. Salembier
Commissioner
State Liaison Officer
Department of Public Service
112 State St., Drawer 20
Montpelier, VT 05620-2601

Mr. Fred Emerson
Nuclear Energy Institute
1776 I St., N.W., Suite 400
Washington, DC 20006-3708

Mr. Stephen T. Hale
Florida Power & Light Company
9760 S.W. 344 St.
Florida City, FL 33035

Mr. William Corbin
Virginia Electric & Power Company
Innsbrook Technical Center
5000 Dominion Blvd.
Glen Allen, VA 23060

Mr. Frederick W. Polaski
Manager License Renewal
Exelon Corporation
200 Exelon Way
Kennett Square, PA 19348

George Wrobel
Manager, License Renewal
R.E. Ginna Nuclear Power Plant
1503 Lake Rd.
Ontario, NY 14519

Mr. David Lochbaum
Union of Concerned Scientists
1707 H St., NW, Suite 600
Washington, DC 20006-3919

Ronald B. Clary
Manager, Plant Life Extension
V.C. Summer Nuclear Station
Bradham Blvd.
P.O. Box 88
Jenkinsville, SC 29065

Mr. John B. Herman
Manager - Nuclear Licensing
Omaha Public Power District
Fort Calhoun Station FC-2-4 Adm.
Post Office Box 550
Fort Calhoun, NE 68023-0550

Mr. Paul Gunter
Director of the Reactor Watchdog Project
Nuclear Information & Resource Service
1424 16th St., NW, Suite 404
Washington, DC 20036

Mr. Hugh Jackson
Public Citizen's Critical Mass Energy &
Environment Program
215 Pennsylvania Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20003

Mary Olson
Nuclear Information & Resource Service
Southeast Office
P.O. Box 7586
Asheville, NC 28802

Talmage B. Clements
Manager - License Renewal
Nuclear Engineering Services
CP&L
410 South Wilmington St.
Raleigh, NC 27602