

October 15, 2003

Mr. David Lochbaum
Nuclear Safety Engineer
Union of Concerned Scientists
1707 H Street NW Suite 600
Washington, D.C. 20006-3919

Dear Mr. Lochbaum,

Thank you for comments on the Mitigating Systems Performance Index (MSPI) Pilot Program contained in your letter of August 22, 2003. It is important to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) that we fully consider and evaluate all stakeholder views on this important Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) pilot program prior to making a decision on whether the MSPI should be implemented into the ROP.

Currently, the MSPI Working Group is working on a number of open technical and implementation issues associated with the MSPI pilot. These issues need to be addressed prior to a NRC staff MSPI implementation decision. The MSPI Working Group meetings are open to the public and are normally conducted monthly.

If you have any additional comments or questions, please contact John Thompson of my staff at (301) 415-1011, or e-mail him at (jwt1@nrc.gov).

James Andersen, Chief
Performance Assessment Section
Inspection Programs Branch
Division of Inspection Program Management
Office Of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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Sincerely,

/RA/

James Andersen, Chief
Performance Assessment Section
Inspection Programs Branch
Division of Inspection Program Management
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