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Date: 07/12/2006 2:44:31 PM
Subject: Interim Industry Guidance for the Ground Water Protection Initiative

Date: July 12, 2006
To: Stuart Richards
Deputy Director - Division of Inspection and Regional
Support
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Attached are copies of the interim industry guidance for implementation of the groundwater protection initiative to enhance detection, management and communications for inadvertent liquid radiological releases in groundwater. The guidance addresses development of site-specific action plans and implementation of an industry communications protocol.

This information is being forwarded to you as a follow up action from our public meeting with NRC on June 21, at which time we agreed to provide copies of the interim guidance for your information with the understanding that it will be included as part of the publicly-available meeting minutes.

The guidance was developed from the results of the industry lessons-learned workshop on groundwater protection held on June 9, 2006. The decision was made to issue the guidance as "interim" in order to put the action plans and the communications protocol in place by the very aggressive due date of July 31, 2006. Later this year, we will collect preliminary lessons learned and feedback from member utility companies and other stakeholders, consider possible changes to the guidance, and then issue the guidance as a formal NEI report.

In mid-2007, we plan to have a second lessons-learned workshop to evaluate the effectiveness of the initiative and consider further enhancements. We intend to invite other key stakeholders, in addition to the industry, to participate in that workshop to provide their perspectives on the initiative.

Please contact me if you have any questions regarding this material.

Ralph Andersen
Director - Health Physics and Low-Level Waste
Nuclear Energy Institute

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