

September 6, 2006

Mr. James E. Wells, Jr.  
Director, Natural Resources  
and Environment  
U.S. Government Accountability Office  
441 G Street, NW.  
Washington, DC 20548

Dear Mr. Wells:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and submit comments on the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) draft report, "Nuclear Regulatory Commission Oversight of Nuclear Power Plant Safety has Improved but Refinements are Needed" (GAO-06-1029). The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) appreciates the time and effort you and your staff have invested to review the NRC oversight program for commercial nuclear power plants. We also appreciate the willingness of your staff to maintain a continuing dialogue with the NRC to ensure that your report is accurate.

Overall, the NRC considers the draft report to be comprehensive, fair, and balanced. The report is well written and provides an accurate reflection of the review. The NRC generally agrees with the findings, conclusions, and recommendations. We have no substantive comments on the draft report.

The enclosure provides some minor comments for your consideration. Should you have questions about these comments, please contact Ms. Melinda Malloy at (301) 415-1785 or Mr. James Andersen at (301) 415-3565.

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Luis A. Reyes  
Executive Director  
for Operations

Enclosure:  
Minor Comments on Draft Report

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