

August 15, 2012

Mr. Mark A. McBurnett
Chief Executive Officer and Chief Nuclear Officer
Nuclear Innovation North America, LLC
4000 Avenue F, Suite A
Bay City, TX 77414

Dear Mr. McBurnett:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) received your letter, "Request for Commission Consideration of Policy Issue Regarding Financial Qualifications for New Merchant Plants," dated May 31, 2012, which requests the Commission to provide direction to the NRC staff in its continuing review of the financial qualifications of the South Texas Project applicants for a combined license.

I appreciate your comments on the complexity of project finance as it relates to merchant plant applicants for a combined license. The staff is considering, generically, the broad issue of financial qualification requirements for merchant plants. A public meeting is being planned for early fall 2012 where we will seek public input on the policy issue your letter raises. The perspective gained from that meeting will be used to inform whether further activities are warranted.

As staff proposals are being developed, your views will be considered and stakeholders will be kept informed. The staff will bring any unresolved policy issues to the Commission's attention. Thank you for your comments on the important subject of merchant plant financial qualification.

Sincerely,

/RA/

R. W. Borchardt
Executive Director
for Operations

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