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Ms. Cindy K. Bladey
Chief, Rules, Announcements, and Directives Branch (RADB)
Office of Administration
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

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Subject: Industry Comments on draft NUREG-2125 "Spent Fuel Transportation Risk Assessment"
(DOCKET ID NRC-2012-0108)

Project Number: 689

Dear Ms. Bladey:

The Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI)¹, on behalf of the nuclear energy industry, is pleased to submit comments on the draft NUREG-2125 "Spent Fuel Transportation Risk Assessment", as requested by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) in the *Federal Register* on May 14, 2012 (77 *Fed. Reg.* 28406). We appreciate this opportunity to provide comments, and believe that by providing opportunities for stakeholder input, the NRC is helping to assure a sound and predictable regulatory framework.

The risk assessment is based upon appropriate inputs and assumptions, and applies rigorous analyses and evaluations, which results in a well-founded and reliable basis for the conclusion that transportation risks are low, in fact significantly below previous, already low, estimates. This assessment improves upon previous studies, because it analyzes actual certified casks, applies more accurate modeling techniques, and uses more recent accident frequency and population data. Yet, it is still conservative. The results demonstrate that transportation under normal and potential accident conditions is safe, and that the current regulations of 10 CFR Part 71 provide reasonable assurance of public health and safety.

¹ NEI is the organization responsible for establishing unified nuclear industry policy on matters affecting the nuclear energy industry, including the regulatory aspects of generic operational and technical issues. NEI's members include all utilities licensed to operate commercial nuclear power plants in the United States, nuclear plant designers, major architect/engineering firms, fuel fabrication facilities, materials licensees, and other organizations and individuals involved in the nuclear energy industry.

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add = J. Cook (JRC1)

This latest risk assessment for transportation of used fuel is timely as its publication coincides with the recent NRC Risk Management Task Force report, NUREG-2150 "A Proposed Risk Management Framework". In that report, the Task Force made several recommendations for implementing a risk management regulatory framework for transportation of radioactive materials, including "...focus its risk management efforts, in the near term, on improving the guidance used in implementation of the current transportation regulations." This recent risk assessment should be included in the NRC's efforts to implement the Task Force's recommendations to further risk inform 10 CFR Part 71.

We have only two minor comments on NRC's draft NUREG-2125:

1. On page 29, the 1st bullet states that "Suburban residents sustain the largest dose for all routes and shipment modes." We recommend adding a sentence to explain the basis for this conclusion, since it is not obvious from the data in the associated tables. We note that the explanation may be related to footnote (a) to Table 5-4 on page 114, which describes that urban dose is less than suburban dose due to shielding.
2. On page 73, item #2 appears to be part of item #1. Please check if there is a typo and whether #1 and #2 should be combined under #1. Combining these would be more consistent with the three scenarios described in the opening paragraph of Section 4.2.3.

We appreciate the NRC's interest in stakeholder input to draft NUREG-2125, and consideration our comments. If you have any questions, please call me at 202-739-8031, mrn@nei.org.

Sincerely,



Marcus R. Nichol

c: Mr. Douglas W. Weaver, NMSS/DSFST, NRC
Mr. Eric Benner, NMSS/DSFST, NRC
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