

August 29, 2014

Mr. Marcus Nichol, Senior Project Manager,
Quality Issues and Licensing Actions
Nuclear Energy Institute
Nuclear Generation Division
1776 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006-3708

SUBJECT: QUALITY ASSURANCE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS FOR NATIONAL
METROLOGY INSTITUTES AS SUPPLIERS OF PRIMARY REFERENCE
STANDARDS AND CALIBRATION

Dear Mr. Nichol:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to your letter dated June 4, 2014, regarding your request for clarification on NRC's position on the quality assurance (QA) program requirements for international National Metrology Institutes (NMIs) as suppliers of primary reference standards and calibration services. You stated in your letter that for the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), the domestic NMI, the NRC does not require purchasers to assure that NIST has a QA program that meets the requirements of Appendix B, "Quality Assurance Criteria for Nuclear Power Plants and Fuel Reprocessing Plants," to Title of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) 10 CFR Part 50, "Domestic Licensing of Production and Utilization Facilities" as stated in a letter dated August 24, 1983.¹ You suggested that the NRC evaluate the ability to use primary standards and calibration services from international NMIs without the need to perform an audit or commercial grade survey of their QA program similar.

The NRC is currently in the process of evaluating its position on the use of NMIs as described in the August 24, 1983 letter. Once our review is completed, we will inform you of the results in a follow-up letter.

Sincerely,

Edward H. Roach, Chief **/RA/**
Mechanical Vendor Inspection Branch
Division of Construction Inspection
and Operational Programs
Office of New Reactors

¹ "QA Program Requirements for Suppliers of Calibration Services," NRC Letter from Uldis Potapovs, Chief Vendor Program Branch to J.L. Wood, Bingham-Willamette Company, August 24, 1983.

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