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April 2, 2015

The Honorable Stephen G. Burns
Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Subject: Second License Renewal (SLR) for U.S. Nuclear Plants

Project Number: 689

Dear Chairman Burns:

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) license renewal rule (10 CFR Part 54) has been used successfully to renew the licenses of 76 U.S. commercial nuclear power plants for an additional 20 years of operation. Thirty-eight of those reactors have been safely and securely producing electricity for more than 40 years. The recent Commission decision that the existing regulation is a sound licensing process for second license renewal provides regulatory stability that is critical as licensees consider operation beyond 60 years.

To this end, the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI)¹ is providing an advance notification that a number of U.S. nuclear plant owners are actively studying the option to operate beyond 60 years. These owners may soon send letters to the NRC announcing their intention to submit a second license renewal application in the 2018-2020 timeframe.

The Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) continue to conduct scientific research to further characterize the technical topics associated with current and long-term, safe operation of nuclear power plants. The industry has used this knowledge and will apply these insights to second license renewal efforts. EPRI and the DOE have stated that they find no generic technical issues that

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

The Honorable Stephen G. Burns

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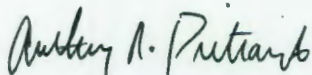
Page 2

would prevent a well-maintained nuclear power plant from operating safely during this second license renewal period given the application of an effective aging management program.

NEI and industry experts continue to work with the NRC to support the update of the Generic Aging Lessons Learned Report (GALL) and the Standard Review Plan (SRP) for second license renewal, which will permit a complete, accurate and efficient license renewal application and review process. It is anticipated that the cost and time required for application and NRC review of a second license renewal would be less than the first license renewal because: 1) the regulatory process is the same, and 2) the lessons learned from the first round of license renewals are applied to the second round of license renewals. We anticipate that these efficiency improvements will allow the total license review time to be reduced from the current goal of 22 months for the first round of license renewals to 18 months or less for the second round of license renewals.

NEI looks forward to working with the Commission to ensure the continued safe operation of the U.S. plants beyond the current 60-year license period by using an efficient and effective regulatory process. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Jason Remer (sjr@nei.org; 202-739-8112) or me.

Sincerely,



Anthony R. Pietrangelo

c: The Honorable Kristine L. Svinicki, Commissioner, NRC
The Honorable William C. Ostendorff, Commissioner, NRC
The Honorable Jeff M. Baran, Commissioner, NRC
Mr. Mark A. Satorius, EDO, NRC
Mr. Michael R. Johnson, DEDO, NRC
Mr. Michael F. Weber, DEDO, NRC
NRC Document Control Desk

From: PIETRANGELO, Tony <arp@nei.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 02, 2015 4:30 PM
Subject: Second License Renewal (SLR) for U.S. Nuclear Plants
Attachments: 04-02-15_NRC_Second License Renewal (SLR) for U.S. Nuclear Plants.pdf

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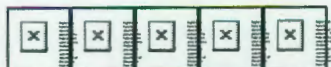
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