

May 29, 1985

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Mr. C. O. Woody, Chairman
Working Group Number 4
Nuclear Utility Management and
Human Resources Committee
P. O. Box 724928
Atlanta, GA 30339

Dear Mr. Woody:

The NRC staff has reviewed the revisions to Maintenance Performance Indicators proposed by your Working Group. It is gratifying to note that many of NRC's recommendations regarding the original set of maintenance indicators have been incorporated into the revision. I believe that NUMARC's efforts have produced a sound starting set of maintenance performance indicators and that any additional changes should be based upon experience gained through actual collection and analysis of data.

Fundamental to NRC's use of maintenance indicators, as a measure of industry's maintenance program improvement, is the NRC staff's ability to independently verify on an audit basis the validity and reliability of industry generated data. This would assure the Commission and the public that the maintenance indicator data base is valid. Accordingly, I request that NUMARC authorize INPO to release maintenance indicators data to the NRC under our existing Memorandum of Agreement with INPO. Plant-specific maintenance indicators data collected by INPO for NUMARC would be protected in a manner similar to that now utilized to protect the NPRDS data base and plant-specific NPRDS data. NRC access to the maintenance indicator data base could either be on a "read only" interactive terminal or by periodic transmittal of a data tape for NRC use. We would limit personnel access to NRC staff and NRC contractors on a "need to know" basis.

I am encouraged by the excellent cooperation between the staff and NUMARC's Working Group 4 regarding industry's efforts to both improve and quantify the improvement in nuclear plant maintenance performance. Industry's success in improving plant maintenance performance and the staff's ability to verify that success are important results to demonstrate the effectiveness of industry's self policing efforts.

Sincerely,

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PDR REVGP ERGNUMRC
PDR

William T. Russell, Acting Director
Division of Human Factors Safety
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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