

May 12, 1997

Mr. Nicholas E. Fioravante
Technical and Management Consulting Services, Inc.
22312 Rolling Hill Lane
Laytonsville, Maryland 20882

Dear Mr. Fioravante:

I am responding to your letter of February 21, 1997, to Gary M. Holahan, Director, Division of Systems Safety and Analysis, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR). In your letter, you provided your insights regarding Information Notice (IN) 92-10, "Potential For Loss of Remote Shutdown Capability During a Control Room Fire," fire-induced hot shorts, and spurious signals.

As you are aware, in a letter dated January 14, 1997, Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) expressed concerns that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff was using IN 92-18 to impose new fire protection requirements on licensees. During a public meeting on February 7, 1997, the NRC staff discussed with representatives of the NEI the questions and issues raised in its letter. At that meeting, you also provided your thoughts on the issues. By letter dated March 11, 1997, the staff provided a written response to NEI. In its response, the staff explained how the fire protection regulation and published staff positions and guidance support its positions regarding IN 92-18. As Pat Madden discussed with you, the staff considered your insights when it developed its response to NEI. A copy of the staff's response to NEI is enclosed for your information.

The staff appreciates your insights and your interest in reactor fire protection. If you have any questions about the staff positions or IN 92-18, please contact me. I can be reached at 301-415-1220.

Sincerely,

K. Steven West, Chief
Fire Protection Engineering Section
Plant Systems Branch
Division of Systems Safety and Analysis
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure: As Stated

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