



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

June 19, 2020

Ms. Janet R. Schlueter, Senior Director
Radiation and Materials Safety
Nuclear Energy Institute
1201 F Street NW, Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20004

**SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO NEI LETTER ON SMARTER INSPECTION AND LICENSING
PROGRAM ENHANCEMENT INITIATIVE**

Dear Ms. Schlueter:

On May 6, 2020, the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), on behalf of its fuel cycle facility members, submitted a letter to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff prioritizing an industry list of inspection program elements you were interested in having further public discussion on (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System [ADAMS] Accession Number ML20135G764). The list of industry's inspection program elements was first provided in a March 17, 2020 letter from NEI to the NRC staff (ADAMS No. ML20097E050), as a follow-up on various public discussions during the NRC staff's initiative to Build a Smarter Fuel Cycle Inspection Program. This letter also provided industry's top five licensing priorities for the near term. We will be communicating our implementation action plan, currently under development, for the Smarter Fuel Cycle Licensing Program initiative and further information regarding that initiative in separate correspondence and public meetings.

The staff's main focus over the coming months will be revising the inspection guidance to implement the approved working group recommendations from the Smarter Inspection Program initiative (ADAMS No. ML20077L247) in support of full implementation by calendar year 2021. Consistent with the Principles of Good Regulation, the staff will plan for further public discussions on the additional inspection program elements you identified in your May 6th letter. Future public engagements with the public, NEI, and industry representatives will be planned to accommodate the priorities communicated in your letter, with those topics you prioritized as high taking precedence in the coming months and later moving to those identified as medium and low.

As previously communicated by the NRC staff, existing planned engagement activities such as the periodic Fuel Cycle Cumulative Effects of Regulation public meetings will be leveraged to further discuss topics of interest related to inspection program elements and licensing program items. Additional public meetings are being discussed internally and will be planned based on the scope of the discussions and consistent with NRC policy for enhancing public participation in NRC meetings.

If you have any questions, please contact me via e-mail at Andrea.Kock@nrc.gov or Ms. Alayna Pearson of my staff via e-mail at Alayna.Pearson@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Kock', with a stylized flourish at the end.

For A. Kock

Andrea L. Kock, Director
Division of Fuel Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

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