December 6, 2004

Mr. Anthony R. Pietrangelo
Nuclear Energy Institute
1776 I Street, NW
Suite 400
Washington, DC 20006-3798

SUBJECT: PRESSURIZED WATER REACTOR CONTAINMENT SUMP EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

Dear Mr. Pietrangelo:

By letter dated May 28, 2004, you submitted a guidance report, "Pressurized Water Reactor Sump Performance Evaluation Methodology," that is intended to allow pressurized water reactor plant licensees to address and resolve Generic Safety Issue (GSI) 191 in an expeditious manner. The report and the enclosed U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff safety evaluation (SE) of the report relate to NRC Generic Letter 2004-02, "Potential Impact of Debris Blockage on Emergency Recirculation During Design Basis Accidents at Pressurized-Water Reactors," issued September 13, 2004.

The guidance report is divided into two primary parts, the baseline evaluation and the refinements section. The NRC staff has reviewed the report and determined that portions of the report are acceptable as is and other portions needed additional justification and/or modification. Therefore, the staff has identified conditions and limitations and required modifications in the SE for those report portions that needed additional justification and/or required modifications.

The staff concludes that the guidance report, as approved in accordance with the staff SE, provides an acceptable overall guidance methodology for the plant-specific evaluation of emergency core cooling system or core spray system sump performance following postulated design basis accidents.

Contact Mr. John N. Hannon at 301-415-1992 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

//RA//

Suzanne C. Black, Director
Division of Safety Systems Analysis
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure: Safety Evaluation

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Suzanne C. Black, Director
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