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A Unit of PECO Energy

64 FR 40394
July 26, 1999

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PECO Energy Company
965 Chesterbrook Boulevard
Wayne, PA 19087-5691

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RULES & DIR. BRANCH
US NRC

December 20, 1999

Chief, Rules and Directives Branch,
Division of Administrative Services,
Office of Administration, Mail Stop: T-6 D59,
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Subject: Comments Concerning "Pilot Program for the New Regulatory Oversight Process" (64FR40394, dated July 26, 1999)

Dear Sir/Madam:

This letter is being submitted in response to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) request for comments concerning the proposed rule "Pilot Program for the New Regulatory Oversight Process" which was published in the Federal Register (i.e., 64FR40394, dated July 26, 1999). The NRC is proposing significant revisions to its processes for overseeing the safety performance of commercial nuclear power plants that include integrating the inspection, assessment, and enforcement process. As part of its proposal, the NRC staff established a new regulatory oversight framework with a set of performance indicators and associated thresholds, developed a new baseline inspection program that supplements and verifies the performance indicators, and created a continuous assessment process that includes a method for consistently determining the appropriate regulatory actions in response to varying levels of safety performance. The changes are the result of continuing work on concepts as described in SECY-99-007, "Recommendations for Reactor Oversight" dated January 8, 1999, and SECY-99-007A, "Recommendations for Reactor Oversight Improvements (Follow-Up to SECY-99-007)" dated March 22, 1999. In June 1999, the NRC began a six-month pilot program with two sites participating from each region. The purpose of the pilot program is to exercise the new oversight process, identify problems, develop lessons learned, and make any necessary changes before full implementation at all sites.

PECO Energy appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed rule "Pilot Program for the New Regulatory Oversight Process." PECO Energy supports the comments submitted on behalf of the nuclear energy industry, by the Nuclear Energy Institute.

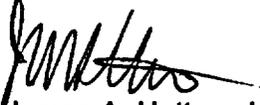
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If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Very truly yours,



James A. Hutton, Jr.
Director - Licensing

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