



Anthony R. Pietrangelo
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT
AND CHIEF NUCLEAR OFFICER

November 20, 2009

Mr. R. William Borchardt
Executive Director for Operations
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Subject: Industry Initiative on Buried Piping Integrity

Project Number: 689

Dear Mr. Borchardt:

The nuclear energy industry understands the importance of maintaining the structural capabilities of plant piping systems for both safety-related and non-safety-related functions. In particular, the integrity of buried piping systems is important to assure the public that our facilities are being operated in a safe and environmentally responsible manner. To this end, the industry is moving forward with a formal initiative to address buried piping integrity. Earlier this week, the industry's chief nuclear officers voted to approve the initiative, which is attached for your information.

The initiative is a formal commitment by the companies that operate nuclear energy facilities to follow a specific policy or plan of action. The Buried Piping Integrity Initiative calls for a proactive approach for managing potential buried piping degradation with a goal to "provide reasonable assurance of structural and leakage integrity of all buried piping with special emphasis on piping that contains radioactive materials."

We would be pleased to brief you and your staff on this industry initiative. If you have any questions, please contact me or Alex Marion at 202-739-8080; am@nei.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anthony R. Pietrangelo". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Anthony R. Pietrangelo

c: Mr. Eric J. Leeds, NRR, NRC
NRC Document Control Desk