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July 29, 2021

Mr. Stewart Forbes
Office of the Assistant General Counsel
for Civilian Nuclear Programs
U.S. Department of Energy
Room 6A-167
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

**Subject: Request for Extension of Public Comment Period; Notice of Inquiry on
Preparation of Report to Congress on the Price-Anderson Act**

Dear Mr. Forbes:

On behalf of our members, the Nuclear Energy Institute¹ (NEI) requests an extension of the time permitted to submit comments on the Department of Energy's (Department or DOE) notice of inquiry (NOI) published on July 26, 2021 (86 Fed. Reg. 40,032). The NOI requests public comment on the need to continue or modify the Price-Anderson Act (PAA). As proposed, the comment period closes on Aug. 25, 2021. We respectfully request that the Department extend the comment period by 30 days, establishing a new due date of Sept. 24, 2021.

NEI appreciates DOE's willingness to provide an opportunity for public participation in the development of its report to Congress. We agree that this is a vitally important opportunity to collect public input to inform DOE's views on the future of the PAA. To that end, extending the comment period by 30 days will provide the time necessary for NEI to interact with its membership and provide meaningful responses to the 24 questions in the NOI.

This extension would provide an opportunity for public comment that is similar to the comment period provided by DOE in gathering public input to inform its last report to Congress in 1998. On Dec. 31, 1997, the DOE published an NOI requesting public comments to inform its 1998 report (62 Fed. Reg. 68,272). In that notice, the Department requested public comments by Jan. 30, 1998, but also provided an opportunity for additional reply comments to be filed by Feb. 13, 1998. Subsequently, DOE extended the

¹ NEI is responsible for establishing unified policy relating to matters affecting the nuclear energy industry, including the regulatory aspects of generic operational and technical issues. NEI's members include entities licensed to operate commercial nuclear power plants in the United States, nuclear plant designers, major architect and engineering firms, fuel cycle facilities, nuclear materials licensees, and other organizations involved in the nuclear energy industry.

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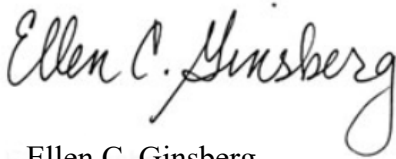
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deadline for reply comments to Feb. 25, 1998 (63 Fed. Reg. 7,407; Feb. 13, 1998). Thus, the total comment period offered on the last NOI requesting input on PAA totaled approximately eight full work weeks, or 56 calendar days.

As reflected in the questions presented in the NOI published earlier this week, there are several novel issues relevant to the continuation or modification of the PAA that did not exist in 1998. Thus, we believe that a comment period that is roughly congruent with the time allowed by the Department for comments in advance of the 1998 report is appropriate and necessary in order for NEI and the public to provide well-vetted, substantive feedback on this important issue.

Should you have questions or require additional information relating to this request for extension, please feel free to contact me or Jonathan Rund (jmr@nei.org) of my staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ellen C. Ginsberg". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the left of the typed name below it.

Ellen C. Ginsberg