

May 10, 2000

The Honorable Constance A. Morella  
United States House of Representatives  
51 Monroe Street, Suite 507  
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Congresswoman Morella:

I am providing an interim response to your letter of March 24, 2000, to Mr. Dennis Rathbun, Director, Congressional Affairs, which included a March 8, 1998, letter from Montgomery County Councilmember Nancy Dacek regarding Neutron Products, Inc. (NPI) of Dickerson, Maryland. In addition, this letter is to follow-up my January 19, 1999 letter regarding NPI.

We share the concerns expressed by Councilmember Dacek in her March 8<sup>th</sup> letter regarding the compliance history of NPI. We are aware that the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) and NPI have been in extensive and lengthy litigation in connection with MDE's effort to ensure an adequate level of regulatory control over NPI's activities in accordance with Maryland regulations. We understand these legal proceedings are consistent with Maryland law. MDE is continuing with necessary legal actions and is also continuing to carry out its regulatory program, including a strategic inspection plan for NPI, to protect public health and safety.

You asked that we look into this matter. We have requested information and discussed this matter with MDE staff. Given the complexity of this case, we plan to meet with Maryland staff to discuss their oversight of NPI and future actions that are planned, or which may be needed to bring this matter to a satisfactory resolution. We will inform you of the results of our meeting and further review of this matter.

Sincerely,

***/RA by Carl Paperiello Acting For/***

William D. Travers  
Executive Director  
for Operations

cc: R. Fletcher, Manager  
Radiological Health Program  
Air and Radiation Management Administration  
Maryland Department of the Environment

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Distribution:

EDO RF (G20000192; Ref. G19980109)  
SECY (LTR-00-0254)  
Allegation File (C. Maupin)

Response To Incoming Document: ML003702882

DOCUMENT NAME: C:\MORELLA-2000-3.wpd

\* See previous concurrence.

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Letter: ML003710467  
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