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October 12, 1999

By Hand Delivery

Ms. Annette Vietti-Cook
Secretary of the Commission
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
One White Flint North Building
11555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852

Attn: Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff

**Notice of Proposed Rulemaking: Domestic Licensing
of Special Nuclear Material (10 C.F.R. Part 70)**

Dear Ms. Vietti-Cook:

In light of the recent criticality accident at the Tokai-Mura fuel fabrication facility in Japan and the Commission's announcement that it intends to make its own study of the Japanese accident in cooperation with Japanese authorities (see NRC Press Release No. 99-214, October 8, 1999), my client, the Nuclear Control Institute,¹ respectfully requests that the comment period on the Commission's proposed amendments to its regulations governing the domestic licensing of special nuclear material, as published in the *Federal Register* on July 30, 1999 (64 *Fed. Reg.* 41338), be extended for an additional period of at least sixty (60) days. Such an extension is important in order to help ensure that the implications of this accident may be fully considered by the Commission in its rulemaking process. Indeed, the Institute believes it is imperative that the Commission inform itself and interested stakeholders on the significance of the accident for the Part 70 regulatory structure before any final decisions are made concerning the proposed revisions to Part 70.

Thank you for your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,

¹ The Nuclear Control Institute is a non-profit membership corporation, organized and existing under the laws of the District of Columbia, which is dedicated to halting the proliferation of nuclear weapons. Its address and telephone number are: 1000 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 804, Washington, D.C. 20036; Tel.: (202) 822-8444.

Eldon V. C. Greenberg

**Counsel to the Nuclear
Control Institute**

cc: Paul L. Leventhal