

August 15, 2000

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Schumer:

Thank you for your letter of July 10 on the export of highly-enriched uranium (HEU) to Canada. As you know, the Commission recently held a public briefing with stakeholders and representatives of the Executive Branch concerning this case, the results of which are summarized in the enclosed "Staff Requirements Memorandum," dated July 27, 2000. That memorandum provides direction to the NRC staff on this important issue.

The Commission takes very seriously its responsibilities under the Atomic Energy Act in reviewing HEU export activities, including our consideration of the requirements of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (the Schumer Amendment). After careful review, we confirmed that the requirements of the Schumer Amendment are being met for this export at this time. Significant progress has been made over the past year by the operators of the MAPLE reactors and the related isotope processing facility towards conversion to the use of low-enriched uranium targets.

The Commission and staff will continue to monitor the status of the conversion program through routine contacts with the licensee and with Executive Branch officials responsible for assisting in this effort, and during our reviews of the annual reports they are required to file with the Commission.

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Richard A. Meserve

Enclosure: Staff Requirements Memorandum,  
dated July 27, 2000