July 15, 1998

The Honorable James M. Inhofe, Chairman
Subcommittee on Clean Air, Wetlands,
Private Property and Nuclear Safety
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Enclosed for the information of the Subcommittee are copies of a Press Release and a proposed amendment to 10 CFR Part 20 dealing with respiratory protection and other controls to restrict internal exposure of workers. The proposed amendment will be published in the Federal Register for a 75-day public comment period.

These amendments are based on guidance developed by the American National Standards Institute. These amendments will provide greater assurances that recent technological advances in respiratory protection equipment and procedures are reflected in NRC regulations, and that worker's exposures will be maintained as low as is reasonably achievable.

The proposed rules redefine the level of adequate protection, establish a less prescriptive framework and are estimated to reduce licensee burden by about $2 million per year with no reduction in worker health or safety. The Commission's proposed rule is consistent with the general mandate of the Technology Transfer Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-113) to utilize consensus standards.

Sincerely,

/S/

Dennis K. Rathbun, Director
Office of Congressional Affairs

Enclosure:
Federal Register Notice

cc: Senator Bob Graham

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July 15, 1998

The Honorable Dan Schaefer, Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Power
Committee on Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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Sincerely,

/S/

Dennis K. Rathbun, Director
Office of Congressional Affairs

Enclosure:
Federal Register Notice

cc: Representative Ralph Hall

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