



OFFICE OF THE
GENERAL COUNSEL

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

June 23, 2000

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

RE: Massachusetts Institute of Technology v. United States, No. 00-292 C (United States Court of Federal Claims, filed May 22, 2000)

Dear Chairman:

This lawsuit, a companion to Sweet v. United States, No. 00-274 C (U.S. Court of Federal Claims), seeks reimbursement of attorney's fees and costs incurred in defending a tort suit, Heinrich v. Sweet, arising out of alleged medical misuse of a research reactor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). MIT relies on a 1959 indemnity agreement between MIT and the Atomic Energy Commission under the Price-Anderson Act -- an agreement that requires the government, according to MIT, to reimburse MIT's legal expenses exceeding \$250,000. MIT says that it incurred more than one million dollars in expenses in defending the Heinrich suit.

We are working with the Department of Justice on the defense of both the MIT and Sweet lawsuits.

Sincerely,


John F. Cordes, Jr.
Solicitor

cc: Representative Rick Boucher

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