

March 5, 2001

The Honorable John D. Dingell
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Dingell:

In response to your letter of February 22, 2001, requesting information on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's relationship with the new Administration in terms of its regulatory review plan, I am pleased to provide responses to each of your requests for information.

1. Please provide a copy of any written communication (including electronic) you or any other employee of your agency has received from any official or employee of the Executive Branch, requesting that your agency submit regulatory proposals to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) as part of the new Administration's regulatory review plan. Please identify the source of any such communication and the agency official or employee to whom it was directed.

The only written communication from the Executive Branch to the NRC requesting that we comply with the Administration's regulatory review plan is the January 20, 2001, memorandum from Andrew H. Card, Jr., to the Heads and Acting Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies (copy enclosed).

2. Please identify any verbal communication from any official or employee of the Executive Branch requesting that your agency comply with any aspect of the new Administration's regulatory review plan. Please identify both the Executive Branch official or employee and the agency official or employee who received any such verbal communication.

We have received no such verbal communication.

3. Please provide a copy of any written communication (including electronic) you or any other employee of your agency has received from any official or employee of the Executive Branch requesting that your agency comply with any procedures other than those procedures developed and carried out by your agency in compliance with its statutory mandate to conduct its regulatory actions in an independent manner.

We have received no such written communication.

4. Please provide a copy of any written communication (including electronic), as well as a written description of any verbal response, you or any other employee of your agency has made to any written or verbal request from any official or employee of

the Executive Branch that your agency comply with any aspect of the new Administration's regulatory review plan.

We have made no such response.

5. Please describe the procedures your agency follows in adopting rules and regulations.

The NRC develops its rules in a manner consistent with the Administrative Procedure Act and all other applicable laws and regulations. NRC's procedures are intended to achieve efficiencies in rulemaking while providing the public and other stakeholders the maximum opportunity for full participation in rulemaking proceedings.

The NRC's rulemaking procedures are contained in Management Directive 6.3, "The Rulemaking Process" and in Part 1 of NUREG/BR-0053, Revision 4, "NRC Regulations Handbook" (copies enclosed).

I would note for your information that we received an inquiry on these matters in a February 6, 2001, letter from Representative Tauzin, Chairman of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. A copy of our February 9, 2001, response to Representative Tauzin is enclosed.

Please let me know if you have further questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Richard A. Meserve

Enclosures: As stated

cc: The Honorable W.J. "Billy" Tauzin, Chairman

March 5, 2001

The Honorable Henry A. Waxman
Committee on Government Reform
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Waxman:

In response to your letter of February 22, 2001, requesting information on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's relationship with the new Administration in terms of its regulatory review plan, I am pleased to provide responses to each of your requests for information.

6. Please provide a copy of any written communication (including electronic) you or any other employee of your agency has received from any official or employee of the Executive Branch, requesting that your agency submit regulatory proposals to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) as part of the new Administration's regulatory review plan. Please identify the source of any such communication and the agency official or employee to whom it was directed.

The only written communication from the Executive Branch to the NRC requesting that we comply with the Administration's regulatory review plan is the January 20, 2001, memorandum from Andrew H. Card, Jr., to the Heads and Acting Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies (copy enclosed).

7. Please identify any verbal communication from any official or employee of the Executive Branch requesting that your agency comply with any aspect of the new Administration's regulatory review plan. Please identify both the Executive Branch official or employee and the agency official or employee who received any such verbal communication.

We have received no such verbal communication.

8. Please provide a copy of any written communication (including electronic) you or any other employee of your agency has received from any official or employee of the Executive Branch requesting that your agency comply with any procedures other than those procedures developed and carried out by your agency in compliance with its statutory mandate to conduct its regulatory actions in an independent manner.

We have received no such written communication.

9. Please provide a copy of any written communication (including electronic), as well as a written description of any verbal response, you or any other employee of your agency has made to any written or verbal request from any official or employee of

the Executive Branch that your agency comply with any aspect of the new Administration's regulatory review plan.

We have made no such response.

10. Please describe the procedures your agency follows in adopting rules and regulations.

The NRC develops its rules in a manner consistent with the Administrative Procedure Act and all other applicable laws and regulations. NRC's procedures are intended to achieve efficiencies in rulemaking while providing the public and other stakeholders the maximum opportunity for full participation in rulemaking proceedings.

The NRC's rulemaking procedures are contained in Management Directive 6.3, "The Rulemaking Process" and in Part 1 of NUREG/BR-0053, Revision 4, "NRC Regulations Handbook" (copies enclosed).

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Please let me know if you have further questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Richard A. Meserve

Enclosures: As stated

cc: The Honorable Dan Burton, Chairman