



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

May 24, 2001

MEMORANDUM TO: Chairman Meserve  
Commissioner Dicus  
Commissioner Diaz  
Commissioner McGaffigan  
Commissioner Merrifield

FROM: Dennis K. Rathbun, Director *DR*  
Office of Congressional Affairs

SUBJECT: SENATOR JEFFORDS LEAVES REPUBLICAN PARTY;  
SENATOR REID DELAYS VOTES ON NOMINATIONS

As you are aware, Senator James M. Jeffords of Vermont is leaving the Republican party to become an Independent who caucuses with Senate Democrats. As such, the Senate leadership is going to change. Senator Jeffords will replace Senator Bob Smith (R-NH) as Chairman of the Committee on Environment and Public Works. Senator Lieberman will become Chairman of the Committee's Subcommittee on Clean Air, Wetlands, Private Property and Nuclear Safety. Also, of particular interest to the NRC, Senator Harry Reid (D-NV) will become Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations' Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development. Senator Jeffords' profile is attached.

Also of interest, the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works delayed a scheduled May 23, 2001 vote on the nomination of Jeffrey Holmstead for the position of Assistant EPA Administrator for Air and Radiation. The Committee's ranking member, Harry Reid (D-NV) requested all notes and memos related to the 1990 Clean Air Act amendments (PL 101-549) that Holmstead wrote when he was an associate counsel in the previous Bush administration. Senator Reid also put a hold on two other nominations -- Stephen Johnson (EPA's Assistant Administrator for Toxic Substances) and James Connaughton (member of the Council on Environmental Quality). He said that these holds are in response to the Bush administration's failure to publish rules on radiation limits at the proposed Yucca Mountain repository.

Attachment:  
As Stated

cc: EDO            NRR            OIP  
      OGC/Cyr       NMSS           OIG  
      OGC           RES            ACRS/ACNW  
      OIG           CFO            OCAA  
      SECY          OPA

Contact: Linda Portner, 415-1673