

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: 07/20/01 EDO CONTROL: G20010293
DOC DT: 07/09/01
FINAL REPLY:

Senator Strom Thurmond

TO:

Chairman Meserve

FOR SIGNATURE OF : ** PRI ** CRC NO: 01-0347

Chairman

DESC:

ROUTING:

Nuclear Energy -- Licensing Process

Travers
Paperiello
Kane
Norry
Craig
Burns/Cyr
Reyes, RII
Thadani, RES
Virgilio, NMSS

DATE: 07/10/01

ASSIGNED TO: CONTACT:
NRR Collins

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

Date Printed: Jul 10, 2001 13:04

PAPER NUMBER: LTR-01-0347 **LOGGING DATE:** 07/10/2001
ACTION OFFICE: EDO

AUTHOR: Strom Thurmond
AFFILIATION: SEN
ADDRESSEE: CHRM Richard Merserve
SUBJECT: SUPPORTS NATIONAL ENERGY POLICY.....ENERGY CAMPUSES

ACTION: Signature of Chairman
DISTRIBUTION: Chairman, RF, OCA

LETTER DATE: 07/09/2001
ACKNOWLEDGED: No
SPECIAL HANDLING:

NOTES: CHAIRMAN'S CORRESPONDENCE
FILE LOCATION: ADAMS

DATE DUE: 07/24/2001 **DATE SIGNED:**

EDO --G20010293

STROM THURMOND
SOUTH CAROLINA

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE
UNITED STATES SENATE

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4001

July 9, 2001

COMMITTEES
ARMED SERVICES
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Honorable Richard A. Meserve
Chairman
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
One White Flint North, Room 17 D 1
11555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Chairman Meserve:

I would like to take this opportunity to advise you of my support for President Bush's recently released National Energy Policy. I am extremely pleased that nuclear energy is a significant part of that portfolio.

Utilities are close to decisions on new nuclear plants, but the Federal government could advance this process by reducing the uncertainty associated with the licensing process. For example, utilities may propose new plant designs or new technologies as additions to existing designs that require regulatory review and approval. I am certain that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) stands ready to move forward expeditiously to review new ideas. I support Federal funding to the NRC to assist with your readiness to consider new ideas and reduce the time required to process new licensing requests.

I also support using the Department of Energy reservations as host sites for future nuclear energy facilities. Recently, I proposed to Vice President Cheney the concept of creating "energy campuses" at reservations such as the Hanford, Idaho National Environmental Engineering Laboratory, and the Savannah River Site. I have also introduced S.919, which, if enacted, would direct the Department of Energy to conduct a feasibility study of this proposal.

A civilian power production facility could be co-located at any of the above sites, which would avoid a number of problems associated with building new civilian production facilities. There would be no need to secure new land or to convince the local populace of safety issues. Additionally, I believe the "licensing process" could become much more efficient. Finally, it would reduce the amount of new infrastructure required, as you would be "leveraging" against what already exists at those locations.

It is my understanding that you will be visiting the Savannah River Site tomorrow, and I hope that you can add this topic to your agenda.

With kindest regards and best wishes,

Sincerely,



Strom Thurmond

REC'D BY SECY

10 JUL 01 7:11