

July 20, 2001

The Honorable Strom Thurmond
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-4001

Dear Senator Thurmond:

Thank you for your letter of July 9, 2001, regarding the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) activities in support of the National Energy Policy.

Let me assure you that the NRC is preparing to review new plant designs and related new technologies. Providing an efficient licensing process that is protective of public health and safety and the environment is an important goal in our licensing proceedings.

I am also aware of your proposal in S. 919 to establish "energy campuses" at Savannah River and other national laboratories and will follow its progress with interest. The proposed location of the MOX production facility at the Savannah River Site was one of the reasons for my trip to South Carolina and Georgia. I was very impressed with the technology and people at the site and look forward to working with them.

Thank you for your interest in the views and activities of the NRC.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Richard A. Meserve