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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
RULEMAKING AND
ADJUDICATIONS STAFF

Secretary, Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC., 20555

I am writing to you to express my outrage over the systematic dismembering of the right to democratic process being conducted by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) a public agency of the people supposedly working for the people.

A recent policy change, added to the Federal Register on 4/16/01 (Vol.66; pg. 19609-671) would: Effectively end formal hearings by allowing the industry "flexibility" in selecting informal hearings; Decrease the already short time span to challenge proposed applications (currently 30 days) at hearings; Bypass the spirit of the legislation enacted by Congress in the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 by removing the accountability from the nuclear industry to demonstrate their competence and safety with a public hearing. The informal format negates public input by replacing direct Q&A and witness cross-examination with submitted questions to the presiding officer to be asked at their discretion. It also curtails the ability to have industry reports, documents, records, etc. surrendered by industry for analysis. And shortening the amount of time in which court challenges can be presented severely hampers the ability of outside agencies to gather scientific documentation and expert witnesses.

It is unacceptable for a government agency to behave in such an obviously biased manner, especially in light of the deadly nature of the subject matter. Nuclear power has not been proven safe. NRC's solution ...ease licensing restrictions. There is great public concern over nuclear waste generation, storage, transportation and disposal. NRC's solution ...emend official policy to make public participation as difficult and ineffective as possible. There is no proven safe manner to deal with nuclear waste which is acceptable to all concerned. NRC's solution ...license new reactors faster.

It is obvious that this agency is not living up to it's charter promise for the American public whom they serve. And what makes this even more alarming is the potential for disaster that their misconduct may generate: Increased nuclear waste; Rise in nuclear proliferation; Nuclear accidents, deaths and injuries; and Environmental poisoning of air, water, and ground resources and wildlife. These toxins are non-degradable for thousands of generations! They should not be regulated arbitrarily or by a suspect commission.

A full accounting of your version of these events is expected, please respond.

Thank-You!

Sincerely,

Douglas Belyeu

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