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Office of the Secretary
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555
ATTN: Rulemaking and Adjudications Staff

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OFFICE OF SECRETARY
RULEMAKINGS AND
ADJUDICATIONS STAFF

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am totally opposed to your Commission's proposed rulemaking as described in 'The Federal Register,' April 16, 2001, Vol. 66, to change the licensing hearing process for nuclear power reactors. The public is entitled to full and meaningful participation in on-the-record hearing processes for the licensing of new reactors, the re-licensing of aging reactors, and industry amendments to operating license safety requirements.

Current hearing procedures ensure that an accurate and complete record of all commentators is available for purposes of public oversight; these procedures facilitate the most thorough consideration by all parties affected by your Commission's decisions. These deliberations also benefit from participation by parties unable to attend the hearings, who sometimes contribute the best technical, economic, or political reviews of the regulatory issues under review. In the "open society" we live in, the current procedures work admirably well, and there is absolutely no compelling reason to change them as has been proposed.

The proposed rulemaking would violate the principles of your Commission's mandate to operate as a public agency; and it is not much of a stretch to see that proposal as a violation of the spirit of democratic government. The NRC is not the keeper of some mysterious, sacred flame, but a modern bureaucracy funded by citizens' taxes and charged with regulating a particular technology of vital concern to a myriad of public parties; its operations and decisions are as much a public affair as the deliberations of our nation's legislative bodies.

I will be awaiting your considered response eagerly.

Very truly yours,



Kurt C. Wilner
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