

The Secretary U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

NRC Secretary:

Public hearings are vital in the consideration of nuclear energy projects. We oppose any regulation change that would decrease them.

Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends (Conservative) includes Quakers from four Midwestern states. We are holding our annual meeting on the campus of Scattergood Friends School, which is the site of one of the early solar units. We firmly believe in renewable energy and have for many years opposed the increased use of nuclear energy.

As dreadful as the accidents were at Three Mile Island and at Chernobyl, we at least found relief in the fact that the building of more nuclear power plants in the United States had been declining. Now we have renewed concerns. The Bush administration is encouraging the building of 50,000 Megawatts of new atomic reactors by 2020, and the Price Anderson Act is up for reauthorization.

It is outrageous that the act limits nuclear industry liability in the event of an accident, prevents the obtaining of insurance to protect in the case of an atomic meltdown, prohibits people from suing a nuclear utility even if it is proven negligent, and provides a \$3 billion per year taxpayer subsidy to nuclear utilities.

Public hearings are crucial in a democracy, and we urge you not to circumvent them.

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In the Light and on behalf of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative),

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