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1601

File: Sunshine Act

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

Facsimile

To: LAURA GERKE
From: BILL BEANE
Date: 11 May 99
Regarding: SUNSHINE ACT

This fax includes 3 pages, including the cover page.

Constituent requests they be included in public comment period.

Please let me know when the Federal Register prints the notice

- Done - LG called 5/11 w/ date + pages of notice.

*Thanks,
Bill Beane*

Senator John Edwards

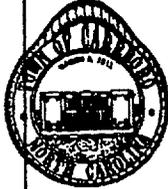
825 Hart Senate Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20510

Phone (202) 224-3154 Fax (202) 228-1374

5/12...To OGC for Direct Reply....Suspense: May 25...Cpy to: RF
OCA...99-0453 ...SECY/RAS

REC'D BY SECY
11 May 99
40 APR 99 6:17
A19



TOWN OF CARRBORO

NORTH CAROLINA

99 MAR 25 AM 9:28

March 22, 1999

Senator John Edwards
Hart Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Edwards:

It has come to the attention of the Town of Carrboro that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) seeks exemption from the Sunshine Act and proposes to facilitate policy making out of the view of the public to which it is responsible. We believe this proposed policy change is unwise, wish to express our opposition to it, and request your assistance in opposing it.

On March 1, 1999 the NRC announced that it would propose a final rule which allows three of five NRC commissioners to meet in private. Current rules allow no more than two commissioners to meet to discuss business. As justification for the change, the Commission cited a 1984 Supreme Court ruling which opened the way for this re-interpretation of the Sunshine Act of 1976. We understand the NRC has directed its General Counsel to prepare the rule to be published in the Federal Register within 30 days. Notwithstanding assurances by the Commission that policy decisions would not be made at such closed-door meetings, we believe this rule change would undermine public confidence in the agency at a critical time.

The importance of this proposed change should not be underestimated. Policy issues now under discussion include such fundamental questions about nuclear energy as decommissioning of nuclear power plants, plutonium fuel reprocessing, nuclear non-proliferation, and nuclear waste disposal. We also believe that it runs counter to recent administration decisions, which have brought past practices into the light of day.

Our concerns are heightened because Carrboro is located only some twenty miles from the site of Carolina Power & Light Company's Shearon Harris nuclear plant. CP&L currently has applied to the NRC to expand its high-level nuclear waste storage capacity at the plant. Significant technical and policy questions remain unanswered about the risks, wisdom, and alternatives of this proposal. If granted, more high level waste could be stored at Shearon Harris than at any other plant in the country.

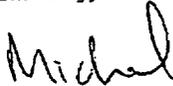
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It is in the interests of the residents of Carrboro and others around the country, that deliberations and decisions be made in the open, in the "sunshine". We do not believe that discussions of nuclear regulatory matters by a majority of the commission should take place in secret. As a legislative body, the Carrboro Board of Aldermen is subject to, and willingly agree to, broad open meetings requirements to the long-range benefit of good government. We believe the NRC should be held to a similar standard.

Thank you very much for your attention to this matter. We appreciate any assistance you may be able to give in maintaining an open deliberation and decision process at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. We would appreciate hearing of any action or developments on this matter.

Sincerely,



Michael R. Nelson
Mayor