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USNRC

September 26, 2001 (3:26PM)

OFFICE OF SECRETARY
RULEMAKINGS AND
ADJUDICATIONS STAFF

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Framingham, MA 01701

Office of the Secretary
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

ATTENTION: RULEMAKING AND ADJUDICATIONS STAFF

To Whom It May Concern:

NRC's proposed rule-making, described in The Federal Register, April 16, 2001,Vol. 66, is unacceptable.

Nuclear power plants bear the potential for major destruction of property and lives. For that reason, it is vital that Americans be able to take part fully in the process of nuclear safety. Yet, the proposed rule-making could rob citizens of full and meaningful participation in licensing of new reactors, the re-licensing of aging reactors, and industry amendments to operating license safety requirements.

Americans have the right to full disclosure of safety issues and should be able to cross-examine witnesses in a trial-like situation, instead of filing written questions to be asked at the discretion of the presiding officer. How easy to ignore the difficult ones!

The proposed rule-making strips democracy from public hearings. The purpose seems to be to make nuclear power more attractive for investors.

In the filings of contentions, sufficient time is needed for the filers to review the nuclear industry application, draft their contentions and hire experts. All applicable documents should be available to the public.

Authority in these matters belongs to the those whose lives will be affected. The nuclear industry must answer to the citizens.

Sincerely,

Trudy Schafer

Trudy Schafer