

October 1, 2001

Mr. David Lochbaum
Nuclear Safety Engineer
Union of Concerned Scientists
1707 H Street NW, Suite 600
Washington, DC 20006-3919

Dear Mr. Lochbaum:

Thank you for your August 22, 2001, comments on our preliminary impact assessments of nuclear industry consolidation. We received many good comments and are currently evaluating them. We will address all comments relevant to the scope of our effort at our public workshop on November 1, which you have agreed to participate in, and in our subsequent Commission Paper.

In the preamble to your comments, you suggested that we add a ninth category of industry consolidation impact issues to the eight existing categories. Specifically, you suggested that Public Confidence be added as Category 9, and that it include two issues: Public Availability of Information and Formal vs. Informal Hearings. Our Working Group considered your suggestions, but we were unable to find any relationship between nuclear industry consolidation and these two issues. Thus, we have no basis for adding this new category as you suggest. Your nine specific comments on the issues we did evaluate will be addressed directly.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Herbert N. Berkow, Director
Project Directorate II
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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