

October 11, 2001

Mr. Ernest Goitein
167 Almendral Avenue
Atherton, CA 94027-4003

Dear Mr. Goitein:

Thank you for your comments of July 9, 2001, 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 scheduled for November 1 and 2, 2001, and in our subsequent Commission Paper.

In one of your comments, you expressed a concern that older plants, that you stated "are ripe for take over," may suffer from embrittlement of the reactor vessel. While your concern has validity, we are well aware of the potential for reactor vessel embrittlement and have programs to specifically address this phenomenon, independent of whether or not a plant changes ownership or the status of its construction investment.

As I informed you earlier, we are having a public workshop to discuss nuclear industry consolidation and deregulation issues at our headquarters in Rockville, MD, on November 1 and 2. This workshop and a detailed agenda will be noticed in the *Federal Register* and on the NRC's external website. Our final assessments will also be made publicly available.

Thank you again for your interest.

Sincerely,

/RA/

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

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