November 13, 2001

Mr. Raymond Shadis
New England Coalition
on Nuclear Pollution
Post Office Box 545
Brattleboro, Vermont 05302

Dear Mr. Shadis:

I am responding to your letter dated October 12, 2001, concerning the temporary shutdown of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) website. We took this action for the purpose of performing a review of all the material on the website in order to avoid facilitating the information gathering processes of those seeking to harm the United States of America. Our action in initiating a review of our website is one undertaken by many government agencies as part of an ongoing effort to thwart the information-gathering activities of terrorists. The operation of the NRC website was restored within approximately one week, on October 18. Many any categories of documents that were formerly available, including material pertinent to ongoing rulemaking proceedings are currently accessible.

As of this writing, the website includes information on the NRC's mission and governing legislation; how to contact NRC, public meeting notices, Agreement State Programs, the agency telephone directory; news releases; NRC regulations published in 10 CFR; current rulemakings; access to the agency document management system (ADAMS) containing more than 125,000 publicly available documents; information about NRC's Public Document Room; FOIA information; contracting opportunities; opportunities for employment, information on how to report a safety concern, the Inspector General's hotline; and materials on the Regulatory Information Conference.

Our review of the remaining materials is going forward in a deliberate and systematic manner. We will continue to restore documents promptly as their review is completed and it is deemed appropriate to do so.

The Commission will remain sensitive to the need for information on the part of its stakeholders. While there is no cause for an across the board lengthening of schedules, consideration will be given, as necessary, to the existence of special circumstances where the unavailability on the website of specified documents has actually and reasonably prevented parties to adjudications or participants in rulemakings from meeting established deadlines.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Richard A. Meserve

November 13, 2001

Mr. Michael Mariotte, Executive Director
Nuclear Information and Resource Service
1424 l6th Street NW, Suite 404
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Mr. Mariotte:

The Commission has received your letter of concern dated October 15, 2001, regarding the temporary shutdown of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) website for the purpose of performing a review of all the material on it. Our action in initiating a review of our website is one undertaken by many government agencies as part of an ongoing effort to thwart the information-gathering activities of terrorists. In any event, as you have likely seen, the operation of the NRC website was restored within approximately one week, on October 18. It currently makes available many categories of documents that were formerly available, including material pertinent to ongoing rulemaking proceedings.

As of this writing, the website includes information on the NRC's mission and governing legislation; how to contact NRC, the agency telephone directory; news releases; NRC regulations published in 10 CFR; current rulemakings; access to the agency document management system (ADAMS) containing more than 125,000 publicly available documents; information about NRC's Public Document Room; FOIA information; contracting opportunities; opportunities for employment, information on how to report a safety concern, the Inspector General's hotline; and materials on the Regulatory Information Conference.

Our review of the remaining materials is going forward in a deliberate and systematic manner. We will continue to restore documents promptly as their review is completed and it is deemed appropriate to do so.

At all levels the government is continuing to do its business notwithstanding hardship or inconvenience. For NRC activities, the Commission will remain sensitive to the need for information on the part of its participants. *Cf. Consolidated Edison Co. of N. Y. (Indian Point 1 & 2)*, CLI-01-08, 53 NRC 225 (2001). While there is no cause for an across the board lengthening of schedules consideration will be given, as necessary, to the existence of special circumstances where the unavailability on the website of specified documents has actually and reasonably prevented parties to adjudication or rulemaking participants from fully or partially meeting established deadlines.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Richard A. Meserve

November 13, 2001

Mr. Hugh Jackson, Policy Analyst
Public Citizen's Critical Mass Energy
and Environment Program
215 Pennsylvania Avenue SE
Washington, D.C. 20003

Dear Mr. Jackson:

The Commission has received your letter of concern dated October 17, 2001, regarding the temporary shutdown of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) website for the purpose of performing a review of all the material on it. Our action in initiating a review of our website is one undertaken by many government agencies as part of an ongoing effort to thwart the information-gathering activities of terrorists. In any event, as you have likely seen, the operation of the NRC website was restored within approximately one week, on October 18. It currently makes available many categories of documents that were formerly available, including material pertinent to ongoing rulemaking proceedings.

As of this writing, the website includes information on the NRC's mission and governing legislation; how to contact NRC, the agency telephone directory; news releases; NRC regulations published in 10 CFR; current rulemakings; access to the agency document management system (ADAMS) containing more than 125,000 publicly available documents; information about NRC's Public Document Room; FOIA information; contracting opportunities; opportunities for employment, information on how to report a safety concern, the Inspector General's hotline; and materials on the Regulatory Information Conference.

Our review of the remaining materials is going forward in a deliberate and systematic manner. We will continue to restore documents promptly as their review is completed and it is deemed appropriate to do so.

At all levels the government is continuing to do its business notwithstanding hardship or inconvenience. For NRC activities, the Commission will remain sensitive to the need for information on the part of its participants. *Cf. Consolidated Edison Co. of N. Y. (Indian Point 1 & 2)*, CLI-01-08, 53 NRC 225 (2001). While there is no cause for an across the board lengthening of schedules consideration will be given, as necessary, to the existence of special circumstances where the unavailability on the website of specified documents has actually and reasonably prevented parties to adjudication or rulemaking participants from fully or partially meeting established deadlines.

With respect to your concerns regarding the security at nuclear facilities, in light of the events of September 11, the NRC is conducting a comprehensive review of its safeguards and physical security program, even though we believe that the nuclear power plants and fuel cycle facilities that fall under NRC jurisdiction are among the best protected industrial sites in America. This review involves U.S. national security organizations. We currently are interacting with the FBI, other federal law enforcement and intelligence organizations, the

military, and the newly established Office of Homeland Security so that any necessary changes to our programs will be based on pertinent information from all relevant federal agencies. We believe it is essential that agencies coordinate their requirements.

In closing, I would like to emphasize that the NRC continues to fulfill its obligations to ensure adequate protection of the public health and safety from acts of sabotage, theft, or diversion directed at the Nation's civilian nuclear facilities and materials. We believe that we had an excellent security and physical protection program in place prior to September 11, and we are prepared to build on that solid foundation.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Richard A. Meserve