

April 15, 2002

The Honorable Edward J. Markey
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-2107

Dear Congressman Markey:

I am responding on behalf of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to your letter of December 4, 2001, concerning the NRC policies and procedures for the protection of nuclear materials from theft or diversion. As discussed in earlier correspondence, the recent terrorist attacks have focused attention on the need to review policies and practices related to safeguards and physical security measures for civilian nuclear facilities.

The questions you raised were in three areas: (1) the missing fuel rods from the Millstone Unit 1 spent fuel pool; (2) the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Inspector General, audit report on accounting for government-owned nuclear material; and (3) the risk of terrorist attacks involving radioactive sources. Rather than summarize the answers here, I refer you to the enclosure, which provides detailed answers to each of your questions. Answers to questions you raised in your earlier letters, dated November 15, 19, and 27, 2001, were provided in separate correspondence. Because NRC's review of policies and practices is ongoing, the enclosed answers to your questions are founded on the information that is available at this time.

If you have further comments or questions, please contact me. The Commission will release this letter publicly upon confirmation of receipt of the letter by your office or within 5 days, whichever is sooner.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Richard A. Meserve

Enclosure: Responses to Questions