February 4, 2002

Mr. Daniel J. Popeo
General Counsel

Mr. Richard A Samp
Chief Counsel

Washington Legal Foundation
2009 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Messrs. Popeo and Samp:

Thank you for your letter supporting our decision to shut down the NRC's web site temporarily in the aftermath of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. As you may know, that action was one of many we have taken since those unsettling events to ensure adequate protection of civilian nuclear power plants and nuclear fuel facilities.

As you note in your letter, we have been systematically reviewing information previously made publicly available for sensitive content in an effort to thwart any potential information-gathering activities by terrorists. We have also begun a thorough review of our safeguards and physical security programs, including a comprehensive examination of the programs' basic underlying assumptions.

We agree with you that certain sensitive information does not belong on the web site and will be instituting permanent document management processes to ensure the release of such information is controlled. The decision on which documents to restore to our web site will challenge our long time practice of allowing the public open and convenient access to many of our activities. We want to make sure that any decision we make in this regard is the right decision from the standpoint of public health and safety and the defense and security of our country.

We appreciate your views and will take them under consideration as we continue our review process.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Patricia G. Norry
Deputy Executive Director
for Management Services

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*SEE PREVIOUS CONCURRENCE

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