

March 21, 2002

The Honorable Jon S. Corzine
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Corzine:

I am responding on behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to your letter of March 8, 2002, in which you requested that a "public hearing" be held in Ocean County, New Jersey. The purpose of such a meeting would be to discuss the planned dry storage of spent nuclear fuel in an independent spent fuel storage facility (ISFSI) to be operated at the Oyster Creek nuclear power plant. Your letter expressed concern about public safety in light of the possible threat of terrorism since the events of September 11, 2001.

The NRC has received communications from a number of Ocean County municipalities, raising similar concerns and requesting an adjudicatory hearing. We agree that the issues you and others have raised should be discussed in a public meeting. However, an adjudicatory hearing would not be appropriate because AmerGen Energy Company, LLC, already possesses a general license to operate the ISFSI at the Oyster Creek nuclear power plant under 10 CFR 72.210 of NRC's regulations and the licensee is not seeking any additional NRC licensing action.

The NRC staff is working with your staff to arrange the details of a public meeting which is scheduled for Tuesday evening, March 26th, at the Lacey Township Middle School. A copy of the NRC press release announcing this meeting is enclosed for your information. If you have any further comments or questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Richard A. Meserve

Enclosure: As stated

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Identical letter sent to:

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