

May 16, 2002

Ms. Billie Pirner Garde
Clifford, Lyons, & Garde
1620 L Street, N.W., Suite 625
Washington, D.C. 20036-5600

Dear Ms. Garde:

I am responding on behalf of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to your letter and analysis of March 25, 2002, entitled "The Role of the Commission: The Need for a Comprehensive Solution in Addressing Employee Concerns of Retaliation." As you may be aware, the staff's Discrimination Task Group, established in April 2000, submitted its final report to the Executive Director for Operations in April 2002. A group of executive managers is analyzing the report to consider a range of options for changes for submission to the Commission. Your correspondence will be made available to that executive review group. It is the Commission's intention to make public the staff paper transmitting the executive review group's recommendations and the final discrimination task group report while the Commission deliberates on the matter.

Additionally, your analysis, along with your separate response of March 28, 2002 to the NRC's *Federal Register* notice (66 Fed. Reg. 64,890 (2001)) soliciting comment on the NRC's evaluation of the use of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) in the agency's enforcement program, will be further considered as part of the agency's effort in that area.

Thank you for meeting with me and my fellow Commissioners and providing your written input on this difficult and important area of mutual interest. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Richard A. Meserve