

June 21, 2002

The Honorable Joseph I. Lieberman
Chairman
Committee on Governmental Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing in response to your letter of May 29, 2002, requesting an extension of the public comment period for the proposed Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Information Quality Guidelines published May 3, 2002. In your letter you stated that a 30-day public comment period might not be adequate for the complexity of the issues involved and that many agencies had identical comment periods for their guidelines.

In order to ensure that sufficient opportunity is given to the public to submit comments, the NRC has extended the comment period on the draft NRC Information Quality Guidelines until 5:00 p.m. on June 26, 2002. However, we cannot extend the comment period further and meet the schedule that was set by Office of Management and Budget (OMB), which requires the NRC to submit the revised proposed NRC Information Quality Guidelines to OMB on August 1, 2002. At the end of the comment period, we will review the public comments and revise the proposed guidelines, as appropriate, before submitting them on August 1 to OMB.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I may be of further assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Richard A. Meserve

cc: Senator Fred Thompson