

August 15, 2002

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Durbin:

I am writing in response to your letter of July 17, 2002, concerning the forthcoming issuance of The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Information Quality Guidelines. In your letter you asked how the NRC will avoid increased regulatory red tape and guard against attempts to suppress legitimate but controversial data.

The NRC is committed to assuring the quality of the information that the agency relies on or disseminates to the public. We are currently finalizing guidelines for this purpose. The Commission's guidelines consider the importance of avoiding undue delay in the regulatory process. The guidance makes clear that responses to requests for correction of information included in a proposed rulemaking, for which public comments have been requested, will be handled as part of the rulemaking process. Additionally, the NRC guidelines note that "the NRC will continue to process any decision or document that has had a related request for correction of information unless the NRC decides that the information requires correction before the process may continue."

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

Sincerely,

/RA/

Richard A. Meserve

cc: Senator Joseph I. Lieberman
Senator Fred Thompson