

October 28, 2002

The Honorable Joe Barton, Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has forwarded the enclosed proposed changes to the Commission's rules in 10 CFR Part 50, "Domestic Licensing of Production and Utilization Facilities," to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

The NRC proposes to amend § 50.48, "Fire protection," to permit nuclear power reactor licensees to voluntarily adopt fire protection requirements contained in National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard 805, "Performance-Based Standard for Fire Protection for Light Water Reactor Electric Generating Plants, 2001 Edition," (NFPA 805). The proposed rule would provide existing nuclear power plant licensees with a set of risk-informed and performance-based fire protection requirements.

In summary, the proposed rule furthers the Commission's strategic goals of maintaining safety and protecting the environment, reducing unnecessary regulatory burden, increasing public confidence, and increasing efficiency and effectiveness.

Sincerely,

Original signed by ***/RA D. K. Rathbun/***

Dennis K. Rathbun, Director
Office of Congressional Affairs

Enclosure:
Federal Register Notice

cc: Representative Rick Boucher

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*See previous concurrence

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DATE	10/10/02	10/10/02	10/15/02	10/28/02

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October 28, 2002

The Honorable Harry Reid, Chairman
Subcommittee on Transportation, Infrastructure,
and Nuclear Safety
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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cc: Senator James M. Inhofe

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