

October 29, 2002

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Enclosed for your information is a copy of a petition for rulemaking requesting that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) amend its regulations regarding offsite emergency plans for nuclear power plants. The petition was filed with the NRC by Lawrence T. Christian, et al.

The petitioners request that the NRC establish new rules requiring that day care centers and nursery schools in the vicinity of nuclear power plants be provided for in the offsite emergency plans of all NRC nuclear power facility licensees. The petitioners specifically request that the NRC amend its regulations to insure that all children attending daycare centers and nursery schools within an evacuation zone are assigned to designated relocation centers established safely outside the evacuation zone and are provided with designated emergency transportation in approved child-safety seats. The petitioners also ask that nursery schools and day care centers near nuclear power facilities stockpile potassium iodide (KI); provide staff training on radiological emergency procedures; participate in emergency planning exercises; be subject to annual site inspections by emergency planning officials; be included in all emergency public communication plans; and establish procedures for identifying and tracking all enrolled children in the event of an emergency evacuation.

Also enclosed is a copy of the Federal Register notice announcing the NRC's receipt of the petition. The notice will be published requesting public comment for a 75-day period.

Sincerely,

/ **RA** /

Dennis K. Rathbun, Director
Office of Congressional Affairs

Enclosures:

1. PRM-50-79
2. Federal Register notice

cc: Representative Rick Boucher

October 29, 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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IDENTICAL LETTER SENT TO: The Honorable Harry Reid
Cc: James M. Inhofe

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Document Name: ML022980294.wpd

ADAMS Accession No.: ML022980294

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10/25/02	10/25/02	10/29/02

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