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Date: Fri, Feb 7, 2003 2:24 PM
Subject: WWW Form Submission

FOIA/PA REQUEST
Case No: 2003-0160
Date Rec'd: 2-7-03
Action Off: Brown
Related Case: _____

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by

() on Wednesday, February 05, 2003 at 12:50:39

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Desc: In December 2002, the NRC conducted an internal survey of its staff about their perspectives on the reactor oversight process. UCS is requesting a copy of the survey questions and the overall survey results. UCS is not requesting the individual responses to the survey, merely the overall results.

FeeCategory: Educational

MediaType:

FeeCategory_Description:

Expedite_ImminentThreatText:

Expedite_UrgencyToInformText:

Waiver_Purpose: UCS seeks the survey questions and results to better understand the relative merits of the reactor oversight process as viewed by the NRC staff which implements it. The large survey population (perhaps as high as 2000 staff) gives the results more weight than the isolated perspectives we have heard to date from individual inspectors presenting at the Regulatory Information Conference or NRC staff answering questions at public meetings.

Waiver_ExtentToExtractAnalyze: UCS will review the survey questions and roll-up results for insights into

strengths and weaknesses of the reactor oversight process as perceived by those who must implement it - the NRC staff. These insights will help UCS make decisions on where priorities can be shifted. For example, some of the Davis-Besse Lessons Learned will impact the reactor oversight process. The survey information will help UCS figure out where margins exist that could be tapped for Davis-Besse fixes to the process.

Waiver_SpecificActivityQuals: UCS has been heavily engaged during the development and use of the revised reactor oversight program. UCS served on the Pilot Program Evaluation Panel, a formal advisory group chartered by the NRC in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act to monitor the pilot program period for the reactor oversight program and formally comment on it. In addition, UCS has made several presentations to the NRC Commission, as recently as May 1st of this year, regarding the reactor oversight program's strengths and weaknesses. UCS seeks the subject information so as to further our education and awareness of the reactor oversight program so as to sustain our ability to provide the Commission with meaningful, substantive commentaries.

The results of the internal survey about the reactor oversight process can shape future actions. If, for example, there's a majority of negative responses to a survey question, the advocated remedy would be enhanced training if the area was thought to be a process strength and the advocated remedy would be process refinements otherwise. Basically, the survey information is requested so as to make more informed judgements about the need for mid-course corrections.

Waiver_ImpactPublicUnderstanding: UCS has been involved in the reactor oversight process development and implementation for several years. Our various reports, testimony, and public presentations have attempted to better inform the public on this important regulatory process.

The internal survey information requested in this petition will broaden our knowledge base. For example, we've entertained numerous questions from media and private citizens about issues like manpower levels (e.g., are two Resident Inspectors enough?). We will be better equipped to communicate on these issues armed with the requested information. For example, the public would more likely prefer to hear that 87% of the Resident Inspectors feel that they have sufficient time to conduct the detailed inspections they feel are warranted (should that be the survey results) than for us to try to answer the question indirectly with something like, "the staffing must be adequate because the accident sequence precursor rate is declining."

Waiver_NatureOfPublic: UCS has an active membership of over 40,000 persons. Approximately one-third of our membership are scientists of varying disciplines. The rest are citizens/activists/environmentalists. UCS has a website (www.ucsusa.org) that received an average of 31,922 hits per day during June 2002, a representative month for volume. UCS is a frequent source of information to the media, Capitol Hill, and citizens/activists living near nuclear power plants.

Waiver_MeansOfDissemination: UCS will cite the requested information during upcoming presentations to the NRC Commission and during other NRC public meetings, such as at Regulatory Information Conferences (RICs). We expect to have plenty of future opportunities to engage the NRC on this important topic. In many cases, our written materials for such presentations will be posted to our website, www.ucsusa.org, and available for viewing/download without charge or fee.

Waiver_FreeToPublicOrFee: Yes, as detailed in the response to Item 6. In addition, anyone calling UCS to request a copy of material presented during an NRC public meeting, but not posted on our website, will be provided with a free copy.

Waiver_PrivateCommercialInterest: Neither UCS or any affiliated party has a commercial interest in obtaining the requested information. The requested information will be provided in response to all requests without charge. The sole interest of UCS in the requested information is to improve the interface between NRC and its public stakeholders.
