

April 11, 2003

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

Dear Senator Durbin:

Thank you for your letter dated March 18, 2003, expressing your comments regarding NUREG-1768, "United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission Package Performance Study Test Protocols." The United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is currently receiving public comments on the draft test protocols from a variety of sources, including some of your constituents who attended the public meeting held in Chicago, Illinois. Your comments, as well as all other comments, will be considered as the final test protocols are developed.

The NRC is committed to its mission of protecting the health and safety of the public, as well as the environment. We also recognize that the safe transportation and storage of spent nuclear fuel is an important part of our regulated activities. The feedback that you and your constituents have provided regarding this important issue is appreciated.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Nils J. Diaz