

April 10, 2003

The Honorable Sue W. Kelly
Member, United States
House of Representatives
21 Old Main Street, Room #107
Fishkill, NY 12524

Dear Congresswoman Kelly:

I am responding to your letter dated February 20, 2003, regarding concerns expressed in Manhattan College's February 4, 2003, letter, which you forwarded to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). Manhattan College's concerns relate to the removal of reactor fuel and plutonium sources from the Manhattan College Zero Power Reactor (MCZPR) to allow decommissioning of that facility. You requested the necessary information to address Manhattan College's concerns.

NRC also supports decommissioning this facility as soon as possible. The NRC has approved the decommissioning plan for the MCZPR. However, as Manhattan College stated to you in their letter, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) must take back the fuel and sources to allow Manhattan College to complete decommissioning. Therefore, we have forwarded your letter and Manhattan College's letter to William Magwood in DOE's Office of Nuclear Energy, Science and Technology. Further, by courtesy copy of this letter, I am offering NRC's assistance to DOE in this matter.

Additionally, NRC continues to inspect and evaluate the storage and protection of the MCZPR's fuel and plutonium sources. Based on these inspections and evaluations, the NRC has concluded that the storage and protection of the material at the MCZPR continue to ensure acceptable protection of the public health and safety.

Sincerely,

/RA/

William D. Travers
Executive Director
for Operations

cc: William D. Magwood, DOE

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William D. Travers
 Executive Director
 for Operations

cc: William D. Magwoo, DOE

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