

April 14, 2003

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:

Enclosed for your information is a copy of the Federal Register notice concerning a final rule revising Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) regulations on availability of official records. The final rule (1) specifies document marking requirements for those who submit documents claimed to contain proprietary or other confidential information, to decrease the chances of inadvertent public release of the information by the NRC; (2) codifies NRC's current practices delineating the circumstances under which the agency will not return confidential documents that have been submitted to the NRC; and (3) clarifies that the NRC will make as many copies of copyrighted material submitted to the agency as it needs to perform its mission.

The rule is necessary to conform the NRC's regulations regarding the availability of official records to existing case law and agency practice.

Sincerely,

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Dennis K. Rathbun, Director  
Office of Congressional Affairs

Enclosure: Federal Register Notice

cc: Rep. Rick Boucher

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