

Jane



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555

July 28, 1992

The Honorable John F. Kerry
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515-2102

Dear Senator Kerry:

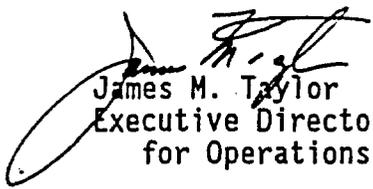
In Chairman Selin's letter to you, dated January 29, 1992, he indicated that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission had initiated a study of the transportation accident involving unirradiated nuclear fuel assemblies, contained in NRC-certified packages that occurred in Springfield, Massachusetts, on December 16, 1991.

Enclosed are two reports that have been published as a result of this study. The first report, "A Highway Accident Involving Unirradiated Nuclear Fuel in Springfield, Massachusetts, on December 16, 1991" (NUREG/CR-5892), was prepared by Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL), under contract to NRC. This report is basically a technical evaluation of the mechanical and thermal environments experienced by the packages during the accident. The report shows that although the packages were severely damaged, there was no release of radioactive material, and the health and safety of the public were not endangered.

The second report is entitled "Emergency Response to a Highway Accident in Springfield, Massachusetts, on December 16, 1991" (NUREG-1458), and includes a review of the emergency response information available to personnel responding to the accident and emergency response measures taken. The review indicates that certain improvements should be made in information immediately available to emergency responders, and in the manner in which it is provided to responders. As a result, NRC is discussing ways to improve emergency response guidance with cognizant Federal agencies.

Copies of these reports have also been provided to Mayor Chessey. I trust that you will find these reports informative.

Sincerely,


James M. Taylor
Executive Director
for Operations

- Enclosures:
1. NUREG/CR-5892
2. NUREG-1458

CH