



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

June 27, 2002

The Honorable John F. Kerry
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Kerry:

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) welcomes this opportunity to comment on the House- and the Senate-passed versions of H.R. 4 and H.R. 2983. We urge passage of several of the provisions, especially those reauthorizing the Price-Anderson Act, eliminating the NRC's antitrust jurisdiction, and enhancing the NRC's ability to attract employees with specialized skills. We counsel against passage of section 304 of the House bill, which would impose greater Government in the Sunshine Act restrictions on the NRC than on any other agency subject to that Act, as well as sections 11, 12, and 14 of H.R. 2983. Our comments on the pertinent provisions are provided in Enclosure 1.

The Commission requests that the conferees include in the final bill the enclosed security legislation that the Commission has submitted to the Congress (Enclosure 2). The Commission's proposals, which are fully endorsed by the Executive Branch, would help deter any attacks on nuclear power plants by giving guards more flexibility to respond as circumstances demand, and by expanding Federal criminal sanctions against such attacks. We have testified a number of times before Congress and have written many individual members to urge passage of our proposed legislation. We request that our proposals be included in the final bill developed by the conferees.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Richard A. Meserve

Enclosures:

1. Comments on H.R. 4 and H.R. 2983
2. NRC Proposed Security Legislation

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