

FEB 09 1994

Mr. Joseph M. Varela
P.O, Box 7243
Santa Rosa, CA 95401

Dear Mr. Varela:

I am writing in response to your recent letter to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission regarding your concerns about news media articles which were critical of the nuclear industry and the NRC or its predecessor, the Atomic Energy Commission. Specifically, you requested comment from the NRC about an article written by Rick Bass critical of the history related to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) facility at Hanford, Washington.

As you may be aware, the NRC has no regulatory authority regarding the conduct of activities at the Hanford facility and prior radiological waste management operations there were not subject to NRC jurisdiction. The agency best able to provide comment on the newspaper article on Hanford activities is the DOE. Accordingly, I am forwarding your letter to the Richland (Washington) Operations Office of the DOE for appropriate response. I trust that DOE will provide the information you seek related to the Hanford facility.

Sincerely,

Original signed by
Guy A. Arlotto

Robert M. Bernero, Director
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

cc: J. Antizzo, DOE
A. Griffith, DOE
K. Randolph, DOE
Richland Operations Office

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 P.O. Box 7243
 Santa Rosa, CA 95401

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