

October 10, 2003

Ms. Debbie Grinnell  
C-10 Research & Education Foundation, Inc.  
44 Merrimac Street  
Newburyport, MA 01950

Dear Ms. Grinnell:

This is in response to your letter dated September 16, 2003, regarding a decision made by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) not to participate in a C-10 Research and Education Foundation (C-10) arranged public forum scheduled for September 22, 2003. On September 16, 2003, as you noted in your letter, the NRC staff informed you that the NRC was declining your invitation to participate in the C-10 forum. As we explained in a phone call with Ms. Gavutis, Executive Director, C-10, on September 22, 2003, we were certainly willing to participate in a public meeting with C-10 to discuss the technical issues surrounding steam generator tube inspections, but we wanted to ensure that such a meeting: (1) takes place after we had responded to your two previous letters, which were dated June 30, 2003, and August 27, 2003, to ensure you still felt a meeting would be beneficial after reviewing our responses, and (2) has a mutually agreeable format and agenda. On September 25, 2003, we responded to your two letters.

On October 7, 2003, C-10 (with other parties) filed a petition with the NRC under Title 10, Section 2.206, of the *Code of Federal Regulations*. The subject of the petition is technical issues on steam generator tube inspections at Seabrook nuclear plant that were also to be discussed in your public forum. The NRC's process for 2.206 petitions includes having a Petition Review Board review the petition and communicate with the petitioners on the issues. Therefore, I feel it is inappropriate for the NRC to participate in another public forum at this time, as your communication with the Petition Review Board will be public and will cover the same issues. Thank you for your interest in the safety of nuclear power plants.

Sincerely,

***/RA by ELeeds for/***

Ledyard B. Marsh, Director  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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Ledyard B. Marsh, Director  
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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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ADAMS Accession Numbers:

Package: ML032691143

Incoming: ML032890486

Response: ML032691065

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