

From: David Solorio
To: Gwingard@earthlink.net
Date: 12/12/03 1:19PM
Subject: Resonse to your email to allegation@nrc.gov regarding 11/29/03 NY Times Article

Mr. Wingard

Thank you for your concerns as expressed in an electronic letter regarding an article written by Matthew Wald of the New York Times, published on November 29, 2003, entitled "Nuclear Agency Changes Its Stance on a Fire Safety Proposal." This article resulted from the November 26, 2003, publication of "Post-fire Safe Shutdown; Criteria for Determining Feasibility of Manual Actions," in the Federal Register, 66501-66503 [03-29560]. The Federal Register Notice can be obtained from <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html>. We will treat your concern as a public comment. We anticipate receiving enough public comments to make it impractical to respond to each one individually. As indicated in the Federal Register Notice, a public comment period on the proposed operator manual action criteria is currently open. Others have raised similar comments and we plan to address all comments in groups, publishing our resolutions shortly after the public comment period ends in late January 2004. You may track the status of the proposed rulemaking on Operator Manual Actions and examine the resolution of your and the other comments via the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Fire Protection website at <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/ops-experience/fire-protection/technical-issues.html> and the Federal Register.