

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

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ACTION OFFICE: EDO

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To: Landau, OEDO
G20010486

AUTHOR: Fred Giffels
AFFILIATION: SC
ADDRESSEE: Richard cc: Meserve

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NRR
CIO

SUBJECT: Express concern on the impact of the lack of availability of NRC daily status reports on small business

ACTION: Information
DISTRIBUTION: Chairman, Comrs, OPA

LETTER DATE: 12/10/2001

ACKNOWLEDGED No

SPECIAL HANDLING:

NOTES: Addressed to: Sen. Strom Thurmond

FILE LOCATION: Adams

DATE DUE: DATE SIGNED:

4-11

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Confidential

December 10, 2001

The Honorable Strom Thurmond
U.S. Senator, State of South Carolina
217 Senate Russel Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-4001

Dear Sir:

Thank you for responding to my letter that I sent to The Honorable Richard A. Meserve, Chairman for the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission regarding the impact of the lack of availability of NRC Daily Status Reports on small businesses, such as HGP, Inc. As a management/technical consulting firm, located in Greenville, SC, we support a wide range of clients in the energy industry and relied on the NRC Web Page information not only to service our clients but to respond to our elected officials when they express a concern or question.

My letter offered suggestions concerning the NRC's dissemination of information to balance the necessary security requirements to protect the health and safety of the public with one of the fundamental rights of U.S. citizens to access governmental information. We suggested that the NRC develop and expeditiously implement additional security measures that could be put in place. They have not. We further suggested that the NRC could password protect certain parts of the website, allowing access for only those passing a qualifying background check (a check similar to that required by licensees for unescorted access to a nuclear site which many of us have gone through already). In this way the NRC can monitor use of the website while allowing only cleared companies access to the information. As a side benefit, our intelligence gathering agencies could track all authorized and any unauthorized users. We have this feature on our web site and would be glad to discuss how easy this is to implement. In addition, we recommended that the NRC delay the publication of the information by a day or two, rather than withhold it entirely. Publishing the Daily Plant Status on the NRC website will not increase risk for terrorist activity against the U.S. licensed commercial operating nuclear plants, but it is impacting the ability for small businesses like us to perform our jobs efficiently.

We appealed to the NRC to recognize that this information ought to be made public 3) to be in conformance with the Freedom Of Information Act, 2) to stabilize the uncertainty it has created in the marketplace, and 1) because it provides no increased threat to the health and safety of the public. Given the current situation with Enron's bankruptcy, the energy sector urgently needs stabilization.

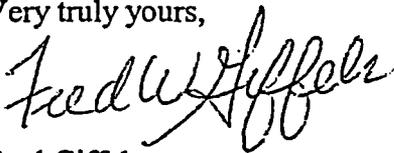
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HGP, Inc. sincerely appreciates your offer to assist us in our quest to obtain this public information. We respectfully request that you contact the NRC Chairman, Mr. Meserve, to urge him to consider the security options I outlined in my letter. My company, HGP Inc., would be happy to serve as a "beta" test site for the implementation of security measures such as password protecting the Daily Plant Status Report, undergoing background checks, etc.

I would be happy to discuss this further with you and/or Chairman Meserve at your earliest convenience. While we certainly regret the September 11 events, and wholeheartedly support national security and anti-terrorist efforts, we believe the detrimental effects of withholding the Daily Plant Status on the industry and small businesses such as ours is more critical than relatively harmless data being made available to the public.

Once again, we appreciate your interest and offer of assistance, and look forward to hearing from you in this regard.

Very truly yours,



Fred Giffels
CEO

C: The Honorable Ernest Hollings
The Honorable Jim De Mint
The Honorable Governor Jim Hodges
The Honorable Richard A. Meserve
Dan W. Salter
Randall S. Hiller, Esquire