

October 6, 2004

The Honorable George V. Voinovich
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-3504

Dear Senator Voinovich:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to your letter, dated September 2, 2004, regarding an unsolicited proposal submitted by Dr. Maurice L. Adams, Jr., of the Case School of Engineering at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. Specifically, the research project that Dr. Adams proposed would involve developing a model-based condition monitoring program for safety-related pumps in pressurized- and boiling-water reactor nuclear power plants. The purpose of the proposed research would be to improve upon the available monitoring and testing procedures for such pumps.

Although we appreciate Dr. Adams' interests in the mission of the NRC and the safety of the Nation's nuclear power plants, we have advised him (in a letter dated September 24, 2004) that we cannot fund his proposed project because it would seek to develop procedures that the nuclear industry could use to meet the NRC's requirements. Such work is more appropriately performed and sponsored by the industry, rather than the NRC. Thus, Dr. Adams may wish to offer his proposal to industry groups (such as the Electric Power Research Institute) or the U.S. Department of Energy.

Although the NRC strives to provide timely responses to unsolicited proposals, we clearly did not do so in this case. We sincerely regret the delay and have extended our apology to Dr. Adams. If you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Luis A. Reyes
Executive Director
for Operations

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