November 18, 2004

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-1501

Dear Senator Grassley:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to your letter of October 13, 2004, to Mr. Dennis K. Rathbun, which forwarded a letter you received from Mr. Paul Gunter of the Nuclear Information and Resource Service (NIRS). Mr. Gunter's letter forwarded you an August 10, 2004, petition that the Nuclear Security Coalition (the Coalition), of which NIRS is a member, submitted to the NRC. Your letter requested information on the status of the NRC's consideration of this petition which affects the Duane Arnold and Quad Cities 1 and 2 reactors.

The Coalition's petition requested that the NRC take action to provide stronger defenses of boiling-water reactors with Mark I and II containments (this includes Duane Arnold and Quad Cities 1 and 2) and their spent fuel. Members of the Coalition, including Mr. Gunter, met with our Petition Review Board on September 23, 2004, to discuss the petition. Enclosed is a copy of the NRC's October 19, 2004, letter to the Coalition acknowledging receipt of the petition and informing the Coalition of the process that the NRC will use to review the petition.

The NRC's petition review process provides for a thorough evaluation of the petition. On the basis of the evaluation, the Director of the NRC's Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation will issue a written decision on the petition. The Coalition will be provided with a proposed Director's Decision for comment before the final decision is issued. The NRC's goal is to issue the proposed decision within 120 days of the October 19, 2004, acknowledgment letter.

I trust that this information is responsive to your request.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Luis A. Reyes
Executive Director
for Operations

Enclosure: As stated

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*Tech. editor previously concurred on a10/29/04 letter largely identical to this one, addressed to Senator J. Gregg.

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