

June 19, 2005

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) submits this letter in response to the requirement stated in Section 8403(c) of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004. That provision requires each Federal agency to submit a Presidential appointment reduction plan to the President and to Congress.

The NRC has six Presidential appointees: the five Commissioners, appointed under provisions of the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974 (ERA), as amended, and the Inspector General, appointed under the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended. Any change in the number of Commissioners or the appointing authority of the Inspector General would require amendment of those statutes.

In the 1980s, Congress held hearings to review the possible restructuring of the Commission and considered, but did not enact, legislation that would have established a single administrator in lieu of a Commission. The Commission does not support a reduction in its membership. The Commission continues to believe that the American public is best served with the stability provided by a 5-member body with non-concurrent fixed terms, comprised of individuals with diverse backgrounds and perspectives.

Similarly, the Commission finds that having a presidentially-appointed Inspector General has been satisfactory. In sum, the NRC recommends that the Congress leave the current structure of the Commission in place and not reduce the number of Presidential appointees.

Respectfully,

/RA/

Nils J. Diaz

Identical letter sent to:

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

The Vice President
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert
Speaker of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable George V. Voinovich, Chairman
Subcommittee on Clean Air, Climate Change,
and Nuclear Safety
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510
cc: Senator Thomas R. Carper

The Honorable James M. Inhofe, Chairman
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510
cc: Senator James M. Jeffords

The Honorable Ralph M. Hall, Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
cc: Representative Rick Boucher

The Honorable Joe Barton, Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
cc: Representative John D. Dingell