

January 25, 2006

The Honorable Edward J. Markey
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Markey:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am writing to supplement information provided to you in my letter dated December 3, 2004, concerning the temporary suspension of public access to the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) that occurred in October 2004. In that letter, I indicated that I would provide a list of the general categories of documents removed from public ADAMS because of security concerns. This list is enclosed. Since my previous letter, the NRC has been reviewing a wide range of new and existing agency documents while simultaneously developing an improved agency-wide process for screening and handling sensitive documents. The goal of this effort is to include as many documents in ADAMS with public access as appropriate.

Since 2004, NRC has worked to maintain public access to as many regulatory documents as possible while implementing appropriate security. As noted in my previous letter, the public has been able to continue to participate in the Commission's regulatory activities even though access to some documents is restricted.

The ADAMS suspension of public access involved about 384,000 documents. Public access was subsequently restored to about 222,000 documents. In addition, the NRC staff has continued to add documents to ADAMS, and the current total number of publicly available documents is 270,000. Public access is available to most documents involving matters with high public interest, including reactors, Yucca Mountain, hearings, and rulemaking. The NRC staff will continue to work to make as many documents as possible available to the public.

If you have further questions about this matter, please contact me.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Nils J. Diaz

Enclosure:
General Categories of Documents Removed
From Public ADAMS

GENERAL CATEGORIES OF DOCUMENTS REMOVED FROM PUBLIC ADAMS

1. Documents, containing drawings/descriptions of sites or buildings, with sufficient detail to indicate security vulnerabilities or aid in planning an attack.
2. Documents containing drawings and detailed information on locations of radioactive material and associated devices.
3. Documents describing security systems and security measures.
4. Documents containing detailed information on radioactive material inventories of certain materials licensees.
5. Documents containing drawings and detailed information of certain devices containing radioactive material.
6. Documents, describing emergency plans, that could indicate security vulnerabilities, especially regarding licensee or government responses to malevolent attacks, and locations of radioactive material and onsite routes and pathways to these locations.
7. Documents containing descriptions/analyses of accident or security scenarios that could indicate security vulnerabilities.

Enclosure