

March 21, 2006

The Honorable Christopher S. Bond  
United States Senator  
Office of Constituent Services  
308 East High Street, Suite 202  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

Dear Senator Bond:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to your letter, dated January 3, 2006, regarding Mr. Webster Davis', June 17, 2005, concern about the implementation of NRC's proposed amendment to Title 10 of Part 26 of the Code of Federal Regulations, "Fitness for Duty (FFD) Programs."

While developing the proposed rule for FFD programs, the NRC held an extensive series of meetings with the public and other stakeholders on the proposed fatigue management, and drug and alcohol requirements. The proposed rule language was subsequently published on August 26, 2005, for a 120-day public comment period that closed on December 27, 2005. During the public comment period, the NRC also held workshops at some locations near plant facilities to provide additional opportunities for plant workers and members of the public to participate in the NRC rulemaking process.

Several comments on this proposed rulemaking express concerns similar to Mr. Davis'. The NRC is reviewing all the comments received on this rulemaking and will publish a resolution of public comments as part of the final rulemaking process. The NRC expects to issue the final rule in early 2007.

The NRC appreciates Mr. Davis' comments. Comments such as his contribute to the rulemaking process and contribute to NRC's mission to protect public health and safety.

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Luis A. Reyes  
Executive Director  
for Operations

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