

May 4, 2006

David Lochbaum
Director, Nuclear Safety Project
Union of Concerned Scientists
1707 H Street NW, Suite 600
Washington, DC 20006-3962

Dear Mr. Lochbaum:

Thank you for your letter of April 10, 2006, regarding your recent tour of the NRC's Operations Center and your request to observe a scheduled exercise involving the full participation of the NRC and a reactor licensee. With respect to your request to be an observer, the NRC staff has developed and implemented a protocol to address the subject of nonparticipant observers. The management of the Division of Preparedness and Response (DPR) coordinates with headquarters/regional offices to identify and prioritize observers from multiple stakeholder organizations since the total number of observers is necessarily limited due to the size of the operations center. We will be happy to coordinate a future exercise where you can be accommodated and we will provide you notification in advance for your scheduling. Mel Leach and I look forward to seeing you again in the NRC Operations Center.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Eric J. Leeds, Director
Division of Preparedness and Response
Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response

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