

December 1, 2006

Dr. Edwin S. Lyman, PhD
Senior Staff Scientist
Global Security Program
Union of Concerned Scientists
1707 H Street, NW, Suite 600
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Dr. Lyman:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to your letter dated November 3, 2006, regarding the State-of-the-Art Reactor Consequence Analyses (SOARCA) project being conducted by the agency. In your letter, you requested that the NRC release SECY-05-0233, "Plan for Developing State-of-the-Art Reactor Consequence Analyses," and the associated staff requirements memorandum issued by the Commission. After careful consideration of your request, we decline to release the documents because they contain pre-decisional, security-related, and other sensitive unclassified information.

I want to assure you that the NRC does not have a predetermined outcome for the SOARCA project. To the contrary, the NRC is actively engaging stakeholders through a variety of means, including public meetings, to ensure that the basis for the project is understood and the supporting assumptions, approach, and methodology are scientifically grounded. The NRC will continue to hold public meetings and conduct public briefings of the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards during the conduct of this project. As will be evident from these meetings and briefings, the project will be conducted using realistic assumptions, state-of-the-art methods, and current nuclear power plant configurations. It is currently planned to update the NRC's web site to include information on this project, such as the purpose, approach, and opportunities for public participation.

The Commission appreciates your interest in this matter.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Dale E. Klein