



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

February 22, 2007

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USNRC

February 27, 2007 (10:34am)

OFFICE OF SECRETARY
RULEMAKINGS AND
ADJUDICATIONS STAFF

SECRETARY

Lisa Rainwater, Ph.D.
Indian Point Campaign Director
Riverkeeper, Inc.
828 South Broadway
Tarrytown, New York 10591

**PR 50, 72, and 73
(71FR62663)**

Dear Dr. Rainwater:

I am responding to your request of February 16, 2007, that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) extend by 60 days the public comment period for the proposed power reactor security requirements rulemaking (RIN 3150-AG63). After careful consideration of your request, the NRC is reopening the public comment period on this rulemaking for 30 days to March 26, 2007. Furthermore, to enhance public participation, the NRC is rescheduling the public meeting on this rulemaking for March 9, 2007.

In support of your request, you note that the public meeting scheduled to occur on February 14, 2007, was canceled due to inclement weather and that this public meeting was intended to provide information to the public to help inform their comments on the proposed rulemaking. You stated that a 60-day extension of the comment period would allow full public participation in the process. Additionally, you noted that the proposed rule and supporting documentation is extensive, and that the request for a 60-day extension is reasonable in light of this extensive documentation.

On October 26, 2006 (71 FR 62664), the NRC published for public comment a proposed rule that would amend its current security regulations and would add new security requirements pertaining to nuclear power reactors. Additionally, this rulemaking includes new proposed security requirements for Category I strategic special nuclear material facilities for access to enhanced weapons and firearms background checks. A 75-day comment period was provided for the proposed rule that expired on January 9, 2007. The comment period for the information collection aspects of the proposed rule expired on November 27, 2006. The comment period for this rulemaking was extended on January 5, 2007 (72 FR 480) to close on February 23, 2007. In the same notice, the comment period for the information collection aspects of the rulemaking was extended to January 11, 2007.

Consistent with the NRC's desire to receive informed comments from external stakeholders on this proposed rulemaking, and recognizing that a public meeting prior to the end of the comment period would support that objective, the comment period for the proposed rulemaking will be reopened for an additional 30 days and will now expire on March 26, 2007. The comment period for the information collection analysis will also be extended to close on this same date. This partial grant of your request recognizes that the power reactor security requirements impact new reactor applications, and it is the NRC's objective to not adversely impact new reactor applications which the NRC expects to be submitted in late 2007. This

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partial grant also recognizes that the NRC has previously extended the public comment by 45 days, and this additional 30-day extension (which now results in a comment period totaling 150 days) is judged to be reasonable in light of this previous action. A notice of this reopening of the comment period will be published in the *Federal Register* (enclosed).

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Mr. Timothy Reed of the NRC at 301-415-1462.

Sincerely,



Annette L. Vietti-Cook

Enclosure:

Federal Register Notice:

Power Reactor Security Requirements;
Reopening of Public Comment Period

cc: Mary Lampert
Pilgrim Watch
148 Washington Street
Duxbury, Massachusetts 02332

Eric J. Epstein, Chairman
Three Mile Island Alert
4100 Hillsdale Road
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17112

Rochelle Becker, Executive Director
Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility
P.O. Box 1328
San Luis Obispo, California 93406

Jim Warren, Executive Director
North Carolina Waste Awareness
and Reduction Network
P.O. Box 61051
Durham, North Carolina 27715

Paul Gunter, Director
Reactor Watchdog Project
Nuclear Information and Resource Service
6930 Carroll Avenue, Suite 340
Takoma Park, Maryland 20912