



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

July 10, 2006

The Honorable Barack Obama
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Obama:

Thank you for taking the time to meet with me before my confirmation hearing to serve on the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). I greatly appreciated the opportunity to discuss issues of importance to both of us, in particular the releases of radioactive discharges. As I stated to you at that time, I am in favor of openness and early notification of unplanned releases to address both real and perceived impacts of these releases.

After careful review of your proposed legislation, S. 2348, I personally support the notification aspects of the bill, but recommend consideration of some modifications. With some unplanned releases that are very small with little risk to the public, it may take a while to determine if a release has occurred. Therefore, "immediate" notification may not be feasible. In addition, the proposed legislation requires reporting requirements for unplanned releases within allowable limits for normal operation established by the Commission that occurs more than twice within a 2-year period. In the case of recurrent unplanned releases within allowable limits, perhaps a higher threshold for triggering reporting requirements for subsequent releases should be set.

I believe it is important to give the public confidence and trust about the information provided, including those releases which do not raise public health and safety issues, yet which may cause alarm among the general public. I look forward to working with you on this issue, in addition to any future issues, to ensure adequate protection of public health and safety.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dale Klein".

Dale E. Klein

*Sen Obama -
I hope to see you during
my trip to Braintree in
early August. Dale*

B/E