

February 11, 2011

Mr. Brian Young
District Engineer
Maryland State Highway Administration
9300 Kenilworth Avenue
Greenbelt, MD 20770

Dear Mr. Young:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has been working with the Montgomery County Department of Transportation to improve pedestrian safety on public streets around the NRC headquarters complex near the intersection of Route 355 and Marinelli Road.

The crosswalk across the east leg of the intersection is heavily used by NRC personnel, as well as other pedestrians going south toward White Flint Mall and nearby office buildings. We estimate that NRC commuter use of this crosswalk is over 2,000 crossings per day.

In the past year, the Maryland State Highway Administration (MSHA) reconstructed the curb ramps on the eastern side of Rockville Pike and temporarily resurfaced the asphalt disturbed by the construction. In re-striping the crosswalk, MSHA reduced its width from 20 feet to 10 feet. Poor drainage, utility work, heavy vehicle traffic, and weather have undermined the asphalt integrity in the area of the crosswalk, creating hazardous footing for pedestrians. This has caused some pedestrians to avoid this area, at their peril, by walking outside the crosswalk.

In 2012, the NRC will occupy a new Three White Flint North (3WFN) building adjacent to the White Flint metro station on the north side of Marinelli Road. The 3WFN building will contain the NRC Professional Development Center and conference facility, as well as an additional 1,400 people. This will greatly increase pedestrian traffic between the 3WFN building and the existing One White Flint North and Two White Flint North buildings on the south side of Marinelli Road.

We request that you enhance pedestrian safety at the Marinelli Road crosswalk by improving the drainage in the area, permanently resurfacing the damaged areas, and restoring the crosswalk width back to 20 feet. Thank you for your previous assistance and for considering this request.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Darren B. Ash
Deputy Executive Director
for Corporate Management
Office of the Executive Director for Operations

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