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The Transport Environment

P.O. Box 701 • Riverdale, Maryland 20840 • 301-779-4368

July 23, 1979

The Honorable Joseph M. Hendrie, Chairman
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

Dear Joe:

I have been reluctant to bother you personally with something that has been troubling me deeply the past two months, but I can't hold back any more. Your fellow Commissioners took an action recently, without your direct participation, with which I disagree very strongly, and I ask urgently that you look into it to see what can be done to set the matter straight.

The subject is the recent NRC safeguards ruling on the transportation of spent nuclear fuel. I attended the Commission meeting when the NRC staff presented its case to the other four Commissioners (you were absent). I, along with most of the other members of the audience, were astonished - nay, aghast - at the information presented by the staff which they said represented the best information they had. The staff misrepresented what others had said, posed problems that did not exist, and, in some cases, stated untruths which I believe they knew to be untruths. Since members of the audience were not allowed to comment, there was nothing we could do but to look at each other in amazement and disbelief, and walk out shaking our heads after the Commissioners (not unreasonably so) went along with the staff. And now the rule ("interim") is in effect.

I have enclosed a brief paper, describing some of the points I have raised above, which supports my reluctantly-made accusations of malfeasance by the staff. I was really sorry that you were unable to be present at the meeting yourself, for I'm sure you would have directed the discussions into a more sensible,



Acknowledged by card. 8/24/79 mclm

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The Honorable Joseph M. Hendrie, Chairman

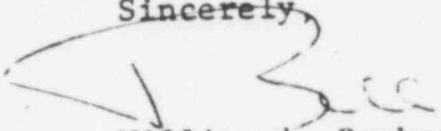
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practicable, and reasonable mode. The matter is serious enough in its implications for the nuclear industry and for the Government, and also in the credibility of both the Commission and its detractors, that I believe it warrants your personal attention and intervention.

I would be happy to discuss this with you at your convenience. I would also be happy to bring along a few of my colleagues from the nuclear and transportation industries and from DOE and DOT (if they can come) to meet with you.

Best regards.

Sincerely,



William A. Brobst
President

WAB/ck

Encl: Discussion Paper

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