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October 15, 1979

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

My office has received several letters and calls expressing concern over recent changes in the NRC's policy of distributing NuReg reports and the proposed limiting free copies of Commission issuances to newspapers, periodicals, clearinghouses and/or reporting services.

While I can fully appreciate the high cost of printing these materials, and I believe that commercial organizations should, in fact, pay for their copies, I think it is important that non-profit organizations be provided with documents they request at no cost.

Requiring purchase of Commission issuances and providing only 200 free copies of NuReg reports burdens the financial resources of many public interest groups and impedes public participation in Commission proceedings. Any policy which inhibits public access to information detracts from the ability of the nuclear regulatory process to inspire public confidence.

The Commission funds extensive travel by Commission members and staff to attend seminars and meetings. Substantial financial outlays were also approved to produce a movie about the LOFT program. It seems to me that information for which the Commission now proposes to charge is in the same category of expenditure

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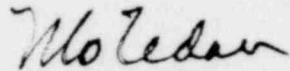
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The Honorable Joseph Hendrie

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as these other approved expenses. A means should be found to supply copies of issuances and other Commission documents, at no cost, to public interest groups with limited resources.

Sincerely,



MORRIS K. UDALL
Chairman

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