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

JUL 12 1979

Mr. Anthony Z. Roisman
Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc.
917 15th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Roisman:

I am pleased to respond to your letter of June 12, 1979 regarding the Generic Environmental Impact Statement on Handling and Storage of Spent Light Water Power Reactor Fuel (GEIS). This statement is limited in scope to the interim storage of light water reactor spent fuel through the year 2000. The Commission is presently determining how to respond to the May 23, 1979 decision of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, which you have cited. (I refer you to the transcript of the Commission meeting of Friday, June 15, 1979.) It is considering commencing a separate proceeding to review the basis for its confidence that means for ultimate disposition of spent fuel and high level nuclear waste will be available when needed. We have noted to the Commission that the period and scope of the GEIS are limited, and that they may wish to consider this factor in determining their actions to respond to the May 23, 1979 decision of the U.S. Court of Appeals.

I am aware that you have already sent a letter directly to the Commission dated June 1, 1979 entitled, "Generic Environmental Impact Statement on Interim Storage of Spent Nuclear Fuel," requesting that it take certain actions with regard to the issuance of the GEIS. The staff, of course, will follow whatever decision the Commission reaches in response to your request to them.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

(Signed) William J. Dircks

William J. Dircks, Director
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

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