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Congress of the United States  
Committee on Government Operations  
House of Representatives

February 4, 1981

Honorable John F. Ahearne  
Chairman  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
1717 H Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Chairman Ahearne:

As you are aware, President Reagan has instituted a hiring freeze in the Executive Branch. The Presidential memorandum of January 20, 1981 and Bulletin No. 81-6 from the Office of Management and Budget, dated January 24, 1981, carry the details of that hiring freeze.

Acting in its capacity as the House oversight subcommittee for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Subcommittee on Environment, Energy and Natural Resources is concerned about the potential impact on the public health and safety of this across-the-board hiring freeze. We are particularly interested in its effect on the inspection and enforcement functions of the NRC with respect to operating commercial nuclear reactors.

To assist our understanding of the impact of this hiring freeze, please have your staff provide the Subcommittee with the following information as rapidly as possible:

- (1) the number of individuals whose anticipated hiring will now be blocked by the hiring freeze;
- (2) the Divisions and positions within the NRC and duties for which these individuals would have been hired but for the freeze;
- (3) an assessment of the impact of this freeze on particular programs, notably any programs having to do with the inspection of operating commercial reactors and any programs specifically initiated or strengthened by the NRC as a result of the analyses of the Three Mile Island accident;

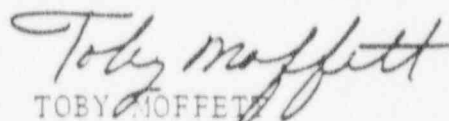
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- (4) a reasonable estimate of the cost of honoring the freeze by aborting these hiring plans: e.g. the cost of lost recruitment efforts, sums expended for security clearances on prospective hires that will now be annulled, etc.

If you have any questions about this inquiry, please have your staff contact Subcommittee Senior Counsel Barry Hager at 225-6427. I would appreciate it if you could provide the Subcommittee with as much of this information as possible by close of business Friday, February 6, with the balance of the information as soon as is feasible.

Thank you in advance for your assistance. Please feel free to provide the Subcommittee with any related information you believe pertinent to this request.

Yours very truly,

  
TOBY MOFFETT  
Chairman

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