



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

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December 28, 1978

The Honorable Morris K. Udall, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Energy and the Environment  
Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman: Mo

Section 7 of Public Law 95-601 directs the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to undertake a comprehensive review of the training and selection process for Atomic Safety and Licensing Board members. A report on the findings of the review was to be made to the Congress by January 1, 1979. The Commission's review is well underway but, for reasons indicated below, will not be concluded until after that date. Accordingly, I want to inform you of the status of the review.

In mid-November, the Commission established a working group composed of representatives of the Office of Policy Evaluation and Office of the General Counsel and the Chairman of the Atomic Safety and Licensing Appeal Panel to undertake the review of the current procedures and formulate recommendations for improvement, if appropriate. This group has been engaged in the information-gathering phase of the review, which has included the submittal of a questionnaire to an assortment of practitioners before the Licensing Boards, interviews with persons who have background to comment on the process, and a literature search.

The working group members have advised the Commission that an extension is necessary to complete information-gathering and to formulate their report to the Commission. Specifically, they requested that they be allowed until January 31 to submit their report. The Commission believes the working group's request is reasonable.

The Commission intends to promptly review the findings of the working group and to submit its report to the Congress as soon as practical thereafter. While we will be unable to meet the statutory deadline,

Identical letter to: Sen. Hart & Rep. Dingell

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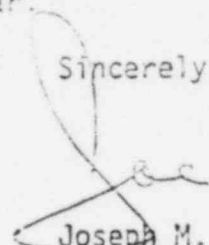
The Honorable Morris K. Udall

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we believe that we will be able to comply with the intent of Congress to have the benefit of the Commission's views in sufficient time to be able to take appropriate remedial legislative action if such is deemed necessary.

With best regards for the coming year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. Hendrie", written over a horizontal line.

Joseph M. Hendrie  
Chairman

cc: Robert F. Bauman