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June 11, 1980

The Honorable John Ahearne
 Chairman, Nuclear Regulatory Commission
 Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I have been informed that intervenors in proceedings before the NRC sometimes encounter substantial obstacles when they seek to obtain documents directed from the applicant to the NRC. I have also been informed that meetings between NRC staff and applicants are sometimes held in circumstances where attendance by intervenors is unnecessarily difficult. Finally, I am told that records kept of meetings between staff and parties to licensing actions are incomplete.

As a result of information being difficult to obtain, it appears that intervenors' participation is unfairly impeded; this undermines the credibility of the licensing process and adds to the length and contentiousness of proceedings.

In order that we might assess the nature of the problem, please indicate the Commission's position with regard to providing intervenors copies of materials transmitted by applicants to the NRC; with regard to whether there is a policy that meetings concerning specific projects should be held whenever possible in circumstances that do not unduly inhibit attendance by intervenors; and with regard to records of such meetings.

I would appreciate the Commission's early consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

M. K. Udall
 MORRIS K. UDALL
 Chairman

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