



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

April 29, 1980

COMMISSION
CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Frank von Hippel
Mr. Peter Raven-Hansen
Suite 600
815 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20006

Gentlemen:

Thank you for your letter of March 12, 1980 which summarizes your concerns regarding the development of NRC's policy and procedures for differing professional opinions. We appreciate your continuing interest and contributions to the development of these procedures for handling differences of professional opinion within the agency.

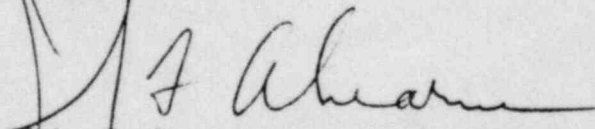
The Commission has just approved the proposed policy and procedures. It will be necessary to submit the Commission-approved policy and procedures to the National Treasury Employees Union (NTEU) for negotiation. We hope to obtain their agreement by July or August after which the policy and procedures will be implemented agency-wide.

Recognizing that operating experience may disclose imperfections in these procedures, provisions have been made for their continuing modification based upon lessons learned in practice. Special emphasis has been placed upon the need to promptly remedy problems that may be encountered during the system's first year of operation. The Special Review Panel which will be established for this purpose will also report their findings and recommendations concerning the system's operation to the Commissioners, the Executive Director for Operations, to all NRC employees, and the report will be made public. The panel will be composed of management and non-management NRC employees and a chairman from outside of NRC.

These characteristics of the proposed NRC policy and procedures for differing professional opinions appear to match the intent of your suggestions.

Thank you for your continued interest.

Sincerely,


John F. Ahearne

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