



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

September 19, 1977

Docket Nos. 50-329/330

Consumers Power Company  
ATTN: Mr. S. H. Howell  
Vice President  
212 West Michigan Avenue  
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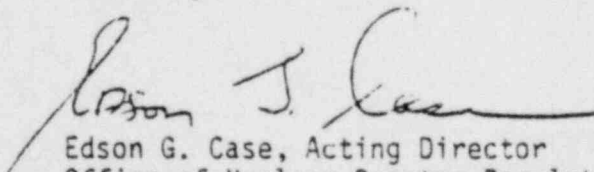
Gentlemen:

Enclosed is a Federal Register Notice of a petition for rulemaking regarding physical searches of individuals entering a protected area of a nuclear power plant and a copy of a proposed NRC regulation which would require clearances for those individuals who are permitted unescorted access within nuclear power plants. The Commission is assessing the implications of these two actions, particularly the "pat down" searches of individuals, and their value as elements of the total physical protection system needed for nuclear power plants. Also, the Commission is concerned with the potential effects on employee effectiveness and morale of the physical search and other requirements for the physical protection of nuclear reactors currently specified in 10 CFR 73.55.

In this regard, the Commission is endeavoring to identify alternatives that achieve the needed protection of nuclear power plants when combined with the other elements of the total plant security system. The Commission wants a broad base of public comment on these issues and, recognizing that physical searches and the obtaining of government clearances directly affect your employees, the Commission requests that you inform them of this notice of rulemaking and of the proposed clearance rule, and of the desire of the Commission to obtain comments directly from those who are or would be most affected.

We request that you post this notice on employee bulletin boards or otherwise notify your employees of the Commission's concerns and desire for comments on these issues.

Sincerely,

  
Edson G. Case, Acting Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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Enclosures:  
As stated

cc: See Page 2

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