

ROBERT J. LAGOMARSINO
19TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

1117 LONGWORTH BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
202-225-3601

ASSISTANT REGIONAL WHIP
FOREIGN POLICY TASK FORCE
CHAIRMAN

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

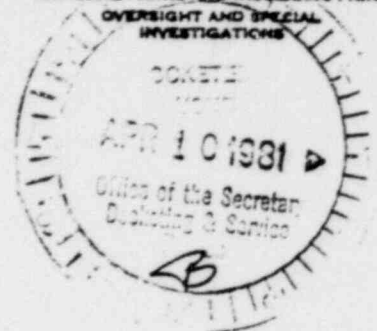
March 31, 1981

370
CLOCK NUMBER PR-2
USED RULE 46 FR 17216

COMMITTEE ON
FOREIGN AFFAIRS
SUBCOMMITTEES:
INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC POLICY
AND TRADE
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

COMMITTEE ON
INTERIOR AND INSULAR
AFFAIRS

SUBCOMMITTEES:
PACIFIC AFFAIRS
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER
NATIONAL PARKS AND INSULAR AFFAIRS
OVERSIGHT AND SPECIAL
INVESTIGATIONS



Joseph M. Hendrie
Chairman, Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Hendrie:

Enclosed is a letter from my constituent,
Fred S. Etheridge, who is concerned about the
proposed N.R.C. regulations.

I would appreciate any information of com-
ments you have pertaining to his letter.

Sincerely,

ROBERT J. LAGOMARSINO
Member of Congress

RJL:rmt

L-4-1 Pt. 2

8104230 714

6653 Trigo Road A
Goleta, CA 93117
20 March 1981

NRC

The Honorable Robert J. Lagomarsino
1117 Longworth Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Lagomarsino:

In the 18 March news, I read of some disturbing new proposed Nuclear Regulatory Commission regulations and legislation. Two aspects trouble me. First, the proposed regulations would significantly reduce the public's right to gather information in cases the NRC handles. Under the present "discovery" process, citizens can ask questions and receive documents relating to specific NRC cases, thus exercising their right to receive information. The proposed regulations seek to entirely eliminate the discovery process, with the NRC deciding if and what information to give citizens.

What this amounts to is a removal of United States' citizens right to question projects which have serious potential for extreme damages (damages to both property, and life itself). Without information, how can we participate in democracy? A democratic society must make information available to all citizens, and not have some body (the NRC) deciding what information should be available to its citizens; such a society which withholds facts reminds me of the Soviet Union. This proposed regulation is removing a democratic right. Rather like asking people to vote without knowing, seeing, or ever reading about the candidate.

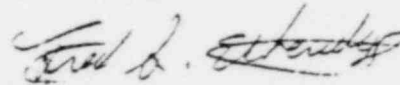
Second, the prospect of issuing operating licenses before safety hearings are completed is absolutely ludicrous. Would any rational man drive a high-powered car on the freeway before safety checks were completed? Would we even let him drive, thus endangering our lives, without a thorough safety check? Quite assuredly, no. Yet the NRC has suggested we approve of legislation which would allow an extremely dangerous technology (dangerous not just to the individual, but to large segments of the population) to operate before safety hearings are finished. Such behavior is throwing reason to the wind.

Such irrationality may be acceptable if it affects only the man who chooses to be the fool. But when it affects significant quantities of other people, it is absolutely unthinkable. Yet this is what the NRC proposes.

I urge you to reject the proposed regulations and legislation. As responsible citizens, we must take the time to ensure, without a doubt, that a nuclear plant is safe. As United States citizens, our right to information so vital to our safety, and our right to participate in our government must be upheld.

Again, I urge you to reject the NRC proposals. Democracy and reason go hand in hand. The NRC proposals disregard both.

Sincerely,



Fred S. Etheridge