



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

January 27, 1994

CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Biden:

Shortly before the Congress recessed last November, the Senate passed H.R. 3355, the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1993. Of particular interest to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission is title XLV of the bill, the Public Safety and Recreational Firearms Use Protection Act, which would restrict the manufacture, transfer, and possession of semiautomatic assault weapons. As currently written, title XLV could affect adversely the security of NRC-licensed commercial nuclear power plants and facilities possessing a formula quantity of strategic special nuclear material (SSNM). Both types of facilities employ security personnel armed with weapons such as those that would be subject to the restrictions of title XLV of H.R. 3355 to safeguard the facility.

Section 4505 of the bill would exempt departments and agencies of the United States from these restrictions. However, as drafted, section 4505 would cover guards only at Government-owned facilities, such as facilities that are owned by the Department of Energy. We believe the same exemption should apply to NRC-licensed facilities.

We therefore recommend that section 4505 of H.R. 3355 be amended by inserting the following before the semicolon at the end of paragraph (4)(A) of section 922(s):

, or to any person (including employees or contractors of such person) who is
(i) required by Federal regulation to establish and maintain an on-site physical protection system and security organization, and (ii) licensed pursuant to title I of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 or subject to regulation under title II of that Act

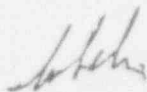
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PDR COMMS NRCC
CORRESPONDENCE PDR

JFOZ
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Senator Joseph R. Biden, Jr. 2

I would be happy to provide further information regarding this matter, should you so desire.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ivan Selin".

Ivan Selin

cc: Senator Orin G. Hatch