



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

The Honorable Alan Simpson, Chairman
Subcommittee on Nuclear Regulation
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

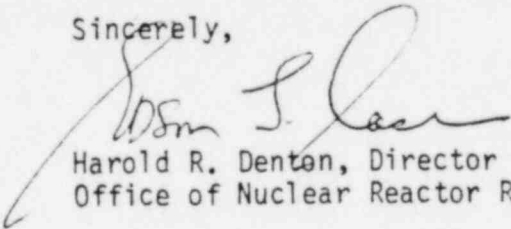
Dear Mr. Chairman:

Enclosed for the information of the Subcommittee is a copy of a Federal Register Notice that proposes to amend the Commission's regulations.

The Commission is proposing a change to 10 CFR 50.54, "Conditions of licenses" and 10 CFR 50.72, "Notification of significant events," to clarify that a licensee may take reasonable action that departs from a facility license condition or technical specification in an emergency when such action is immediately needed to protect the public health and safety. Such actions must be promptly reported to the Commission.

The rule is being proposed because current NRC regulations do not permit deviations from license conditions or technical specifications under any conditions. Emergency situations can arise, though, during which facility license conditions or technical specifications could prevent necessary protective action by the licensee. The proposed rule would allow such action to be taken in emergency circumstances.

Sincerely,


Harold R. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
Federal Register Notice

cc: The Honorable Gary Hart