



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

The Honorable Morris K. Udall, Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and the Environment
Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

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,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Harold R. Denton".

Harold R. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
Federal Register Notice

cc: The Honorable Manuel Lujan