

September 14, 1990

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

Re: Public Citizen, et al. v. U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, No. 90-1432 (D.C. Cir. 1990)

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On August 21, 1990 Public Citizen, Inc., together with more than 25 other citizen groups from around the country and the State of Maine, filed suit in the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit to set aside the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's newly announced policy statement which provided a framework for case-by-case decisions on whether disposal of specified nuclear wastes should be exempt from regulation as "below regulatory concern." See Fed. Reg. 27,522 (July 3, 1990).

In public statements, petitioners said that their lawsuit will attack the Commission's "Below Regulatory Concern" policy on three grounds: (1) that NRC violated the federal Administrative Procedure Act by failing to publish the proposed policy statement in draft form subject to public comment before issuing a final policy; (2) that the Commission's "Below Regulatory Concern" policy violates both the 1954 Atomic Energy Act and the 1985 Low-Level Radioactive Waste Policy Amendments Act by seeking to reduce the economic cost of radioactive waste disposal at the expense of public health and safety; and (3) that the Commission acted in an arbitrary and capricious manner by approving a regulatory policy which incorporates a health risk standard that is more liberal than is generally accepted.

We will keep you informed of any significant developments in this case.

Sincerely,

John F. Cordes, Jr.

Solicitor

cc: The Honorable Alan K. Simpson

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September 14, 1990

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

Re: Public Citizen, et al. v. U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, No. 90-1432 (D.C. Cir. 1990)

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Sincerely,

John F. Cordes, Jr.

Solicitor

cc: The Honorable James V. Hansen



September 14, 1990

The Honorable Philip R. Sharp, Chairman Subcommittee on Energy and Power Committee on Energy and Commerce United States House of Representatives Washington, D. C. 20515

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Sincerely,

John F. Cordes, Jr.

Solicitor

cc: The Honorable Carlos J. Moorhead



September 14, 1990

The Honorable Tom Bevill, Chairman Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development Committee on Appropriations United States House of Representatives Washington, D. C. 20515

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John F. Cordes, Jr.

Solicitor

cc: The Honorable John T. Myers



September 14, 1990

The Honorable J. Bennett Johnston, Chairman Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development Committee on Appropriations United States Senate Washington, D. C. 20510

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Sincerely,

John F. Cordes, Jr.

Solicitor

cc: The Honorable Mark O. Hatfield

CONGRESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE SYSTEM DOCUMENT PREPARATION CHECKLIST

This checklist is to be submitted with each document (or group of Qs/As) sent for entering into the CCS.

DOCUMENT CO	OKENT Correspondence Bearings (Qs/) NTROL Sensitive (NRC Only) Non-sensitive
	AL COMMITTEE and SUBCOMMITTEES (if applicable)
	Congressional Commit
	Subcommittee
SUBJECT COD	26
(8)	
(b)	
(c)	
SOURCE OF D	OCUMENTS
(a)	5520 (document name
(b) _	
(d)	Rekey (e) Other
SYSTEM LOG	DATES
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(b)	Date CCS receives document
(c)	Date returned to OCA for additional informatio
(4)	Date resubmitted by OCA to CCS
(0)	Date entered into CCS by
(£)	Date OCA notified that document is in CCS
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