



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

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Enclosed for the information of the Subcommittee on Energy and the Environment are copies of Federal Register notices of an update to the Commission's Waste Confidence Decision and a rule to incorporate the Commission's revised findings into its regulations. At the time of the Commission's initial Waste Confidence Decision in 1984, the Commission stated that it would review its conclusions at least every five years until a repository for high-level radioactive waste and spent fuel is available. This is the Commission's first review and update of that Decision.

Public comments were received on the draft versions of the Commission's Decision and rule. Commission responses to the public comments and minor changes to the draft Decision and rule are included in the Federal Register notices.

As explained in the Decision, the focus of DOE's repository program on Yucca Mountain as a result of the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 1987 makes it necessary to consider the possibility that this site will be found unsuitable, and that DOE will have to find and characterize another site for the first repository. Consequently, one of the Commission's findings has been revised to indicate that the Commission has reasonable assurance that at least one mined geologic repository will be available within the first quarter of the twenty-first century.

The Commission has also revised its findings to reflect the possibility that reactor licenses may be renewed for as long as 30 additional years, making a total of 70 years of licensed operation. Due to continued advances in dry storage of spent fuel and safe operating experience with both pool and dry storage, the Commission remains confident that, if necessary, spent fuel can be safely stored for at least 30 years beyond the licensed life for operation.

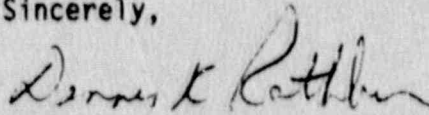
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The Commission has reaffirmed the other findings made in its 1984 Decision, however, the Commission has changed its review cycle for the Waste Confidence Decision from at least every 5 years to at least every 10 years until a repository is available.

Sincerely,



Dennis K. Rathbun, Director
Congressional Affairs
Office of Governmental
and Public Affairs

Enclosures:

Federal Register Notices of Decision and Final Rule

cc: Representative James V. Hansen



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

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Enclosed for the information of the Subcommittee on Energy and Power are copies of Federal Register notices of an update to the Commission's Waste Confidence Decision and a rule to incorporate the Commission's revised findings into its regulations. At the time of the Commission's initial Waste Confidence Decision in 1984, the Commission stated that it would review its conclusions at least every five years until a repository for high-level radioactive waste and spent fuel is available. This is the Commission's first review and update of that Decision.

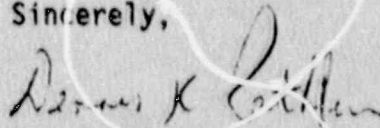
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Sincerely,



Dennis K. Rathbun, Director
Congressional Affairs
Office of Governmental
and Public Affairs

Enclosures:

Federal Register Notices of Decision and Final Rule

cc: Representative Carlos J. Moorhead



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

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Enclosed for the information of the Subcommittee on Nuclear Regulation are copies of Federal Register notices of an update to the Commission's Waste Confidence Decision and a rule to incorporate the Commission's revised findings into its regulations. At the time of the Commission's initial Waste Confidence Decision in 1984, the Commission stated that it would review its conclusions at least every five years until a repository for high-level radioactive waste and spent fuel is available. This is the Commission's first review and update of that Decision.

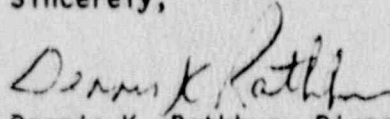
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Dennis K. Rathbun, Director
Congressional Affairs
Office of Governmental
and Public Affairs

Enclosures:

Federal Register Notices of Decision and Final Rule

cc: Senator Alan K. Simpson

CONGRESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE SYSTEM
DOCUMENT PREPARATION CHECKLIST

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3. DOCUMENT CONTROL Sensitive (NRC Only) Non-Sensitive
4. CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE and SUBCOMMITTEES (if applicable)

Congressional Committee
Subcommittee
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8. COMMENTS

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