

CHARLES S. ROBB

VIRGINIA

WASHINGTON OFFICE:

Russell Senate Office Building

First and Constitution Avenue, N.E. Room 493

Washington, DC 20510

(202) 224-4024

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

May 9, 1994

COMMITTEES:

ARMED SERVICES

COMMERCE, SCIENCE,
AND TRANSPORTATION

FOREIGN RELATIONS

Chairman, East Asian and
Pacific Affairs Subcommittee

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

Vice Chairman,
Democratic Policy Committee

Mr. Dennis K. Rathbun
Director
Office of Congressional Affairs
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Mr. Rathbun:

I have been contacted by Ms. Shari Plank of Fairfax, Virginia, expressing concern about the exemption of the U.S. Navy and the Department of Energy from oversight by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. I am enclosing a copy of the correspondence I've received.

I would appreciate it if you could review the letter and provide me with any information you might have about the circumstances of any exemptions and the reasons for it. Many thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Charles S. Robb

CSR\slb
Enclosure

XA 7/15

940630030 / 2 pp.

State Office: Regional Offices:

Old City Hall
1001 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219
(804) 771-2221

Dominion Towers, Suite 107
999 Waterside Drive
Norfolk, VA 23510
(804) 441-3124

1 Court Square
Suite 340
Harrisonburg, VA 22801
(703) 432-1551

8229 Boone Boulevard
Suite 888
Vienna, VA 22182
(703) 356-2006

Dominion Bank Building
Main Street
Clintwood, VA 24268
(703) 826-4104

Signet Bank Building
530 Main Street
Danville, VA 24541
(804) 791-0330

Crestar Bank Building
310 First Street SW Su
Roanoke, VA 24011
(703) 985-0103

10302 Nantucket Court

SHARI PLANK
703-323-9615

Fairfax, VA 22032

April 22, 1994

The Honorable Charles S. Robb
United States Senate
225 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Sir:

I have become recently aware that government -- under the smokescreen of national security -- has secretly been permitting transport of highly radioactive materials by rail, without alerting communities along the route. The National Regulatory Commission requires that states be given advanced notification of radioactive materials.

If the waste operations are so safe, why is government denying the public to know how it's transported and disposed of in this country? Apparently on January 25, 1994 just such a clandestine consignment left the Naval Shipyard in Newport News, VA enroute for disposal at the Idaho Engineering Lab (INEL). This was the third such clandestine shipment that occurred.

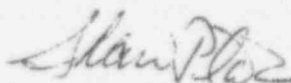
Both the U.S. Navy and DOE enjoy an exemption from Nuclear Regulatory Commission regulations. They claim that shipments are kept secret to protect them from terrorist attack. But if Greenpeace and other anti-nuclear activists can track these shipments, it seems likely that terrorist organizations could do the same. The real reason may be to simply keep the Navy's submarine waste operations clear of public scrutiny. A political cover like this tramples on the public's "right to know."

I urge you, as our Senator, to review these dubious Navy and DOE exemptions to Nuclear Regulatory Commission regulations.

I am an environmentally concerned citizen in Northern Virginia.

Thank you for your continued good work as one of our state's senators.

Sincerely,



Shari Plank

CONGRESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE SYSTEM
DOCUMENT PREPARATION CHECKLIST

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

1. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DOCUMENT(S) Ltr. to Sen Robb
2. TYPE OF DOCUMENT ☒ Correspondence ☐ Hearings (Qs/As)
3. DOCUMENT CONTROL ☐ Sensitive (NRC Only) ☒ Non-sensitive
4. CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE and SUBCOMMITTEES (if applicable)

Congressional Committee

Subcommittee
5. SUBJECT CODES
(a) _____
(b) _____
(c) _____
6. SOURCE OF DOCUMENTS
(a) ☒ 5520 (document name) _____
(b) ☒ Scan (c) ☐ Attachments
(d) ☐ Rekey (e) ☐ Other _____
7. SYSTEM LOG DATES
(a) 7/12/94 Date OCA sent document to CCS
(b) _____ Date CCS receives document
(c) _____ Date returned to OCA for additional information
(d) _____ Date resubmitted by OCA to CCS
(e) _____ Date entered into CCS by _____
(f) _____ Date OCA notified that document is in CCS
8. COMMENTS