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U.S. House of Representatives
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations
of the
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Washington, DC 20515

May 14, 1991

The Honorable Kenneth Carr
Chairman
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing to call to your attention a particularly troublesome statement in your May 3, 1991 response to my April 26, 1991 letter relating to the Commission's oversight of the inspection of welding activities at the Seabrook Station. The purpose of the April 26 letter was to express concern about the way in which the Commission was handling this matter. The Commission's May 3 response did little to allay my concerns. In particular, I am dismayed at the Commission's explanation of the NRC's failure to inform the Subcommittee staff of the Seabrook licensee's discovery, while compiling weld packages in response to the Subcommittee's request, that a radiographic record was missing.

Your May 3 letter would have us believe that we were not promptly notified of the missing film because the NRC staff "viewed the issue as being limited to a records-keeping problem" and that relevant documents "were promptly provided when the NRC staff understood the Congressional staff was interested in the details concerning the missing records." But, the focus of the Subcommittee's inquiry has been the records which the Commission used (or should have used) to support its decision to allow nuclear operations at the Seabrook Station.

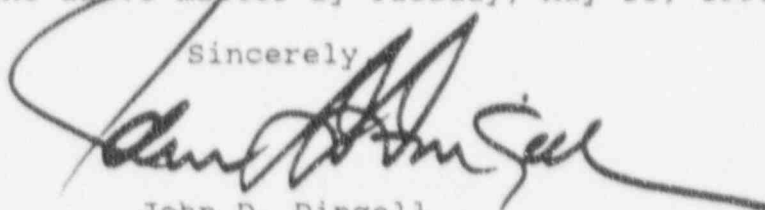
Moreover, the proffered explanation gives rise to further questions because this very discovery caused the NRC to begin another investigation of the Seabrook weld matter by directing the Seabrook licensee to review its engineering drawings in order to identify the welds for which radiographic testing was required.

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Please provide the Subcommittee with an explanation and clarification of the above matter by Tuesday, May 21, 1991.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John D. Dingell", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

John D. Dingell
Chairman
Subcommittee on
Oversight and Investigations

JDD:PScm

cc: The Honorable Thomas J. Bliley, Jr.
Ranking Republican Member
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations