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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2903

COMMITTEES
ARMED SERVICES
ENVIRONMENT AND
PUBLIC WORKS
JOINT ECONOMIC
COMMITTEE

May 14, 1991

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As you know, the Seabrook Nuclear Power Plant in New Hampshire received a full-power license from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) in March 1990 after an extensive and protracted licensing process that spanned over seventeen years.

Today, the people of New Hampshire and New England are benefiting from the reliable electricity that the Seabrook Nuclear Power Plant produces. I am encouraged by the good track record that Seabrook has exhibited during its first year of operation, and I expect that the plant will continue on that track. Furthermore, I remain interested in assuring that Seabrook operates efficiently and economically and remains safe.

Despite the licensee's excellent record of plant operation and Seabrook's protracted licensing process, some Members of Congress and congressional staff continue to question the capacity of the licensee to operate Seabrook. It is my understanding that many of these safety-related questions have already been answered adequately, and in accordance with the NRC's rigid standards. Could you please inform me of any outstanding questions related to plant safety that the NRC has not answered to date? If any outstanding questions remain, I would like you to estimate how much longer an NRC review of these issues should last.

In addition, I would appreciate it if the NRC would promptly provide to my office any and all future correspondence between the NRC, other Members of Congress, and the licensee involving the review of safety-related records at Seabrook. Please also keep me informed prior to any future meetings that the NRC may have with either the licensee or congressional staff on this matter.

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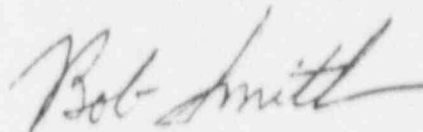
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Page 2
May 14, 1991
The Honorable Kenneth Carr

Thank you in advance for your cooperation in meeting
this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bob Smith". The signature is fluid and written in dark ink.

Bob Smith, USS