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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

May 16, 1995

Dr. Ivan Selin
Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Dear Chairman Selin:

On Wednesday, April 12, 1995, I visited with my constituents at the Siemens Power Corporation in Richland, Washington. Siemens is a nuclear fuels manufacturer licensed to operate under 10 CFR Part 70.

During my visit, I was told that the NRC staff has, for two years, been in the process of crafting a new 10 CFR Part 70. The personnel with whom I spoke are adamant -- implementation of a new 10 CFR Part 70 that follows the draft rule and companion documents presently out for comment, will be absolutely cost prohibitive. The proposed integrated safety analysis alone, with requisite design basis reconstitution, would cost several million dollars. These costs are based on other required safety analyses in similar plants. The seminal issue is not necessarily money. The plant has run safely for over twenty years. Why now the push to require such extensive research?

After my Wednesday meeting, I acquired a copy of the unofficial transcript of the March 22, 1995 Commission briefing titled, Briefing on Status of Action Plan for Fuel Cycle Facilities - Public Meeting.

I am exceptionally impressed with, and applaud, the pragmatic approach you took with the staff during the meeting. On reading the transcript, I agree with your comment to "...put a hold on the rulemaking since the arguments are not clearly positive". I was also interested when I read Ms. Ten Eyck's response to Commissioner Rogers' questions related to the fact that the facilities are being run in a safe manner such that public health and safety are adequately protected right now. I therefore agree, absolutely, that exploring alternatives to come to grips with the shortcomings of the existing rule, under the aegis of the existing rule, seems so much less onerous than a complete rewrite.

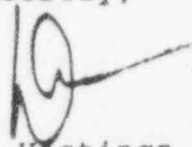
Dr. Ivan Selin

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I am concerned that the staff, while they may have signaled affirmatively to your suggestions to explore alternative methods, still marches along their original course. I am compelled, therefore, to request a response as to how you will satisfy yourself that the staff will honestly explore alternatives to a rewrite of 10 CFR Part 70. I would very much like to be assured that a "new" 10 CFR Part 70, with its two very prescriptive companion documents, does not somehow wait in the wings to be presented during the upcoming new Commissioners' honeymoon period.

I take this opportunity to thank you for your time in focusing on this significant issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Doc Hastings', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Doc Hastings
Member of Congress

RH:rw

c: Representative J.T. Myers
Representative Dan Schaefer

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3. DOCUMENT CONTROL ☐ Sensitive (NRC ONLY) ☒ Non-sensitive
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