



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20565-0001

January 16, 1996

(The Honorable Bud Shuster
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20215

Dear Congressman Shuster:

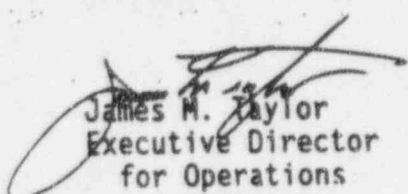
This is in response to your request regarding the letter you received from Mr. Karl Novak dated October 26, 1995. In his letter to you, Mr. Novak enclosed a copy of his letter to the NRC Commissioners, also dated October 26, 1995, and requested a response to his concerns. Mr. Novak's letter to the NRC commented on seven items that were under consideration by the NRC. A copy of our response to Mr. Novak is enclosed.

As you know, the NRC is an independent regulatory agency established under the provisions of the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974. The NRC's mission is to assure that the civilian uses of nuclear materials and facilities are conducted in a manner consistent with the public health and safety, protection of environmental quality, assurance of national security, and adherence to antitrust laws. In our efforts to respond to President Clinton's Regulatory Reform agenda, we have attempted to make our regulatory activities more cost effective. We are also responding to Congressional budget cuts which require us to streamline our efforts. However, these strategies have not changed our fundamental commitment to public health and safety, although Mr. Novak evidently does not agree that our recent decisions reflect that commitment.

As part of our decision process, the NRC prepares a regulatory analysis for all significant regulatory actions which considers options and comments received. These analyses are intended to aid the staff and the Commission to determine whether the proposed actions are needed, to provide adequate justification for the action, and to provide a clear and well-documented explanation of why a particular action was taken. These regulatory analyses are available to the public in NRC's public document room.

I trust that this information is sufficient for you to respond to Mr. Novak.

Sincerely,


James M. Taylor
Executive Director
for Operations

Enclosure:
Letter to Mr. Novak dated
November 13, 1995

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