

NATIONAL WHISTLEBLOWER CENTER

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July 10, 1998

FOI/PA REQUEST

Case No:	<u>98-286</u>
Date Rec'd:	<u>7-14-98</u>
Action Off:	<u>Reed</u>
Related Case:	<u> </u>

VIA FAX AND FIRST CLASS MAIL

Russell A. Powell, Chief
FOIA/LPDR Branch
Office of the Chief Information Officer
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

RE: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

Dear Mr. Powell:

This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act.

On behalf of the National Whistleblower Center, I request the following documents:

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission's NUREG-1437, "Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants" (May 1996), and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's NUREG-1555, "Environmental Standard Review Plan (ESRP)" and all documentation in support thereof.

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(3)(B) which states, "[i]n making any record available to a person under this paragraph, an agency shall provide the record in any form or format requested by the person if the record is readily reproducible by the agency in that form or format," I request that the NRC make the above documents readily accessible on the Internet. It is of great importance to the National Whistleblower Center and the general public to have the above listed GEIS and ESRP available on the Internet for the following reasons:

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1. On April 8, 1998, Baltimore Gas & Electric Company applied to the NRC for a 20-year license renewal of the Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant, Units 1 and 2. This is the first time that an application for a 20-year license renewal has been presented to the NRC. The above listed GEIS and ESRP are documents crucial to the license renewal process. Concerned citizens, public interest groups, and grassroots organizations involved in nuclear safety issues and oversight need access to these documents to properly raise any safety concerns that may exist during the license renewal proceedings.
2. The GEIS identifies and categorizes ninety-two (92) "impacts" that the NRC will address during the license renewal process and limits the scope of review for license renewal proceedings. Citizens and public interest groups that wish to participate in the license renewal proceedings need convenient access to the GEIS to focus any intervention efforts on the proper issues.
3. The ESRP will be used by the NRC as a guide during the license renewal process. Convenient access to the ESRP will enable concerned citizens and public interest groups to be more efficient and effective in any efforts to participate in the license renewal proceedings.
4. The National Whistleblower Center and other nuclear safety watchgroups will enlist experts from across the country to review the Calvert Cliffs license renewal application; therefore the ability to view these crucial documents via the Internet would be efficient and in the public interest.
5. The GEIS and ESRP are large documents. Photocopying costs are prohibitively expensive for many concerned citizens and public interest groups. Making these documents available on the Internet provides greater access for all parties concerned about the license renewal process.
6. The cover letter for the 20-year license renewal application has already been scanned and placed on the NRC Internet site; therefore it is reasonable to believe that the NRC has the resources and technology to also make these documents available on its Internet site.

I request a waiver of all fees for this document request. Disclosure of this information is of interest to the public and the National Whistleblower Center because it is likely to contribute

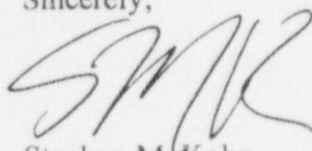
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significantly to public understanding of the NRC and the license renewal process. The National Whistleblower Center is a tax-exempt, non-profit organization dedicated to assisting whistleblowers in reporting nuclear safety concerns to the public, and the requested information will not be used for commercial use by the requester. Placing these documents on the Internet is in the public interest because it will allow greater access to and participation in the license renewal process.

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552 (a)(6)(E), I request that this FOIA request be expedited. It is of the utmost importance that the NRC expedite this request to allow the public access to these important documents. The National Whistleblower Center, other watchgroups, and the general public need access to these documents as soon as possible to participate efficiently and effectively in the license renewal process before the license renewal is approved by the NRC. Given that the deadline for a petition for leave to intervene is August 7, 1998, this FOIA request should be expedited. The potential license renewal of the Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant is a monumental event in the nuclear industry. It is in the interest of the health and safety of the public that the public have access to these important documents that are an integral part of the license renewal process.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. I look forward to hearing from you within ten working days as the law stipulates.

Sincerely,



Stephen M. Kohn
Chairman, National Whistleblower Center