

DANIEL J. EVANS  
WASHINGTON

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

February 24, 1987

Mr. Lando W. Zech, Jr.  
Chairman, Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
1717 H Street, Northwest  
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Lando:

As you may be aware, the Department of Energy (DOE) recently released a technical feasibility study on the possibility of converting the WNP-1 facility at the Hanford Reservation in Washington State into a defense materials production reactor.

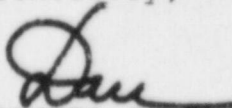
While the results of this report indicate that conversion is technically possible, and may be attractive from a fiscal standpoint, there are several legal and institutional issues which must be addressed before Congress can adequately assess the conversion option. I would therefore request that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) provide me with a written report on the legal aspects of converting WNP-1 which would fall under the jurisdiction of the Commission.

Specifically, I would appreciate your comments on the current status of NRC licenses and permits for WNP-1, as well as your views on the need to modify or terminate them in the event of conversion. I am also interested in the impact which conversion of WNP-1 might have on WNP-2, currently being operated by the Washington Public Power Supply System. There may well be additional areas of concern which come under the purview of the NRC.

Given the aging condition of our existing production facilities and the urgent need for Congress to consider all options as we examine the future of our defense materials production program, I would request that you provide me with a written copy of your views within thirty days.

I appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,



DANIEL J. EVANS  
United States Senator

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