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Arkansas Department of Health

4815 West Markham Street • Little Rock, Arkansas 72205-3867 • Telephone (501) 661-2000
Sandra B. Nichols, M.D., Director • Mike Huckabee, Governor

April 30, 1998

Ms. Harriet Karagiannis
Incident Response Division
Office of Analysis & Evaluation
of Operational Data
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mail Stop TWFN-4-A9
2 White Flint North
11545 Rockville Pike
Rockville, Maryland 20852-2738

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OSP

Dear Ms. Karagiannis:

The Arkansas Department of Health's Division of Radiation Control and Emergency Management has reviewed the Abnormal Occurrence (AO) Criteria Working Group's DRAFT document related to 'Proposed Guidelines for Appendix C "Other Events of Interest". This is a segment of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) Abnormal Occurrence Report to Congress.

Based upon our review, we agree with your Working Group's recommendation that Appendix C "Other Items of Interest" should be deleted from the Abnormal Occurrence Report to Congress. This is the Working Group's Option 1. The stated rationale for this deletion is believed to be very logical and sound.

The ultimate purpose for the Abnormal Occurrence reports is to keep the public informed of significant events. There is also a special emphasis in keeping our radioactive material licensees knowledgeable of events which may have a direct impact on their safety programs. The NRC's use of the INTERNET for reporting significant events has made information readily available to the general public. Hence, the public is being kept very well informed.

Since the reporting of "Other Events of Interest" is NOT a requirement and this information is readily available to anyone with INTERNET, there is NO reason to continue this reporting. By discontinuing this reporting, the NRC could save its limited resources and apply the savings to other needy areas. One such area is the continued support of a viable training program for the Agreement States.

Sincerely,

David D. Snellings, Jr., CHP, Director
Division of Radiation Control &
Emergency Management Programs

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cc: Paul H. Lohaus, OSP

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