

File



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

October 29, 1999

Mr. James P. Riccio
Public Citizen's Critical Mass
Energy Project
215 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20003

Dear Mr. Riccio:

I am responding to your letter to Chairman Dicus of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, (NRC) of August 2, 1999, in which you raised two concerns: (1) that the meeting summary for the public meeting held on July 9, 1999, did not do justice to the issues raised and (2) that a previous letter to you from Chairman Dicus may be based on incomplete and possibly inaccurate information received from the staff. The public meeting on July 9, 1999, was held with stakeholders to discuss how the NRC releases information to the public and a meeting summary was issued on July 23, 1999, which discussed nine issues raised by the stakeholders.

On September 14, 1999, Roy Zimmerman and Louise Lund of the NRC staff called you to obtain additional information regarding your concerns. In that telephone conversation you indicated that the concept of a "level playing field," that is, not giving preferential treatment to any one stakeholder, was of paramount importance and was not adequately discussed in the meeting summary. Mr. Zimmerman and Ms. Lund agreed with you on the importance of the issue and indicated that the NRC was taking actions to ensure that all stakeholders had equal access to NRC documents. The completed actions include (1) creation of a Web page that contains links for documents on the external Web that include comment fields, (2) instructions to the staff to send high-interest releasable documents directly to the Public Document Room (PDR) using the advance copy process, and (3) instructions to the staff to ensure that documents are generally not to be provided to one stakeholder unless they are available to all stakeholders, in accordance with the provisions in NRC Management Directive 3.4, "Release of Information to the Public." Future actions include (1) instructions to the staff on how to maximize use of the Web page, (2) implementation of the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS), which will ensure that publicly releasable documents will be available at the same time to all interested parties, (3) consideration of a "folder" in ADAMS to highlight documents for comment, and (4) instructions to the staff as to the importance of creating more explicit meeting notices. The staff also held an additional public meeting on September 17, 1999, to further discuss how the NRC releases information to the public. At that meeting, the staff reinforced its commitment to take steps to ensure that all stakeholders would be given equal access to NRC documents. This issue will be further highlighted in the meeting summary for the September 17, 1999, meeting.

Regarding your second concern about incomplete and possibly inaccurate information, Mr. Zimmerman and Ms. Lund confirmed with you that the information in question involved the date that a draft Office of the Secretary (SECY) document was available in the PDR. On August 5, 1999, Jim Lyons of the NRC staff called to inform you that a date cited in the Chairman's letter to you of July 23, 1999, was incorrect. In the July 23 letter, we had stated that the draft SECY document described in your letter of May 25, 1999, was available in the PDR on April 7, 1999. In fact, the document has a Nuclear Documents System accession date of

99-190

NRC FILE CENTER COPY

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Mr. James P. Riccio

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April 7, 1999, but the microfiche was not received in the PDR until April 14, 1999, and the paper copy was not received by the PDR until April 20, 1999. This telephone conference was documented in an NRC letter from Samuel Collins on August 10, 1999. The letter apologized for the mistake and indicated that the process for placing information in the PDR will be improved by the actions being taken to ensure that all stakeholders have equal access to NRC documents.

I wish to assure you that the NRC understands the importance of equal involvement by all stakeholders in our processes. In that regard, I appreciate your involvement in the meetings held to date on how the NRC releases information to the public. I hope that you will continue to be involved in the future as we have found the meetings to be extremely valuable.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "William D. Travers".

William D. Travers
Executive Director
for Operations

Mr. James P. Riccio

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Sincerely,

Original Signed by

Carl J. Paparella

William D. Travers
Executive Director
for Operations

DOCUMENT NAME: A:\riccio2.wpd

*See previous concurrence

To receive a copy of this document, indicate in the box C=Copy w/o attachment/enclosure E=Copy with attachment/enclosure N = No copy

OFFICE	REXB*	LA:REXB*	TECH ED*	SC:REXB*	C:REXB*
NAME	EBenner	EHylton KAG for	EJB for BCalure	JLyons	LMarsh
DATE	10/12/99	10/12/99	10/12/99	10/12/99	10/12/99

OFFICE	D:DRIP*	DD:NRR	ADIP*	D:NRR	EDQ	OCM
NAME	DMatthews SFN for	RZimmerman	BBoger	SCollins	WTravers	CHM / ^{Brad} _{Gomez}
DATE	10/13/99	10/13/99	10/14/99	10/19/99	10/21/99	10/29/99

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DISTRIBUTION FOR GREEN TICKET - G -19990447

File Center (w/original incoming)
PUBLIC (w/incoming)
EDO # GT-19990447
EDO R/F
W. Travers
F. Miraglia
C. Paperiello
P. Norry
J. Blaha
S. Collins/R. Zimmerman
ADIP, NRR
S. Burns, OGC
K. Cyr, OGC
B. Sheron
REXB R/F (w/incoming)
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NRR Mailroom (EDO# GT-19990447)(O/5E7)
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E. Hylton

Mr. James P. Riccio

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Sincerely,

William D. Travers
Executive Director
for Operations

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DATE	10 /12 /99	10 /12 /99	10 /12/99	10 /12 /99	10 /12 /99

OFFICE	D:DRIP	DD:NRR	#1 10/14 ADIP	D:NRR	EDO	OCA
NAME	DMatthews <i>[Signature]</i>	RZimmerman	<i>BS w/cha</i>	SCollins	WTravers	
DATE	10/13/99	1 /99	10/14/99	1 /99	1 /99	1 /99

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Mr. James P. Riccio

-2-

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Sincerely,

William D. Travers
Executive Director
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DATE	/ /99	/ /99	/ /99	/ /99	/ /99	/ /99

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Mr. James P. Riccio

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letter from Samuel Collins of my staff on August 10, 1999. The letter apologized for the mistake and indicated that it reflected staff confusion about the process for placing information in the PDR. This confusion will be rectified by the actions being taken to ensure that all stakeholders have equal access to NRC documents.

I wish to assure you that the NRC understands the importance of equal involvement by all stakeholders in our processes. In that regard, I appreciate your involvement in the meetings held to date on how the NRC releases information to the public. I hope that you will continue to be involved in the future as we have found the meetings to be extremely valuable.

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Executive Director
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DATE	<i>10/12/99</i>	<i>10/12/99</i>	<i>10/12/99</i>	<i>1/99</i>	<i>1/99</i>

OFFICE	D:DRIP	DD:NRR	ADIP	D:NRR	EDO	OCA
NAME	DMatthews	RZimmerman		SCollins	WTravers	
DATE	<i>1/99</i>	<i>1/99</i>	<i>1/99</i>	<i>1/99</i>	<i>1/99</i>	<i>1/99</i>

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Rec'd 9/8/99

CONTROL NUMBER: G19990447

SUBJECT: Response Concerning the
Premature Release of SECY-99-143
- Possible Incomplete and Possibly
Inaccurate Information Received
from Staff

NRR RECEIVED: September 3, 1999

ACTION: DRIP:Matthews

Please note that the attached green ticket is for APPROPRIATE ACTION. Please review this item and determine whether or not your division will take action. If action IS going to be taken, what is an appropriate due date?

Return ONLY this completed cover sheet to the NRR mailroom, O-5-E-7 by September 15, 1999.

_____ No Action Necessary Per _____

_____ Yes, Action Due Date: _____

NRR ROUTING: Collins/Zimmerman
Kane
Sheron
NRR Mailroom

Tael / Jim

*It finally arrived. Please
make a proposal -*

Scott

ACTION

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: / / EDO CONTROL: G19990447
DOC DT: 08/02/99
FINAL REPLY:

James P. Riccio
Public Citizen's Critical Mass Energy Project

TO:

Chairman Dicus

FOR SIGNATURE OF :

** GRN **

CRC NO: 99-0752

DESC:

RESPONSE CONCERNING THE PREMATURE RELEASE OF
SECY 99-143 -- POSSIBLE INCOMPLETE AND POSSIBLY
INACCURDANCE INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM STAFF

ROUTING:

Travers
Knapp
Miraglia
Norry
Blaha
Burns
Cyr, OGC

DATE: 09/02/99

ASSIGNED TO:

CONTACT:

NRR

Collins

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

For Appropriate Action.

Ref. G19990271.

