

November 12, 1999

Mr. David Lochbaum
Union of Concerned Scientists
1616 P Street, N.W.
Suite 310
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Mr. Lochbaum:

As discussed in an October 29, 1999, voice-mail message to you from Tim McGinty of my staff, I am responding to your e-mail message to Roy Zimmerman, Deputy Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, concerning public meeting announcements. Specifically, you raised a concern on general meeting announcements that identify a range of possible meeting dates and lack specificity on purpose.

In order to improve staff efficiency and maintain schedule predictability, we announced the intent of possible meetings with dry cask storage applicants on short-notice near the end of major review activities. The intent of the SFPO practice to announce meetings with a range of possible dates was to provide as much advance notice as possible to the public that such short-notice meetings may be necessary. I apologize if our intent in these actions was misunderstood.

In the future, these meeting announcements will state that a more specific description of the subject matter to be discussed at any short-notice meetings will be available at the toll-free number and the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission website. In addition, as soon as we know the date, time and specific topic, we will update the information in meeting announcements. We will make every effort to provide as much advance notification as possible on our meetings.

I trust that you will find this responsive to your request. If you have any questions, please call me at 301-415-8500.

Sincerely,
ORIGINAL SIGNED BY /s/
E. William Brach, Director
Spent Fuel Project Office
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

SFPO-199900126

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