

November 18, 1999

Mr. Francis X. Lyons
Regional Administrator, Region V
United States Environmental Protection Agency
Great Lakes National Program Office
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60604-3590

Dear Mr. Lyons:

Thank you for your letter of October 20, 1999, in which you forwarded a copy of "Amnesty Irrational: How the Nuclear Regulatory Commission Fails to Hold Nuclear Reactors Accountable for Violations of Its Own Safety Regulations" authored by the group Public Citizen. The United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) was aware of the report and has been pursuing resolution of a number of design basis issues, the subject matter of the report, for some time. We are also familiar with the data used in developing this report, as it is required to be submitted by power reactor licensees in accordance with NRC regulations and is publically available. We intend on continuing our efforts related to the review of design basis issues to determine whether improvements to our regulatory processes are warranted.

Sincerely,

**Original Signed by
William D. Travers**

William D. Travers
Executive Director
for Operations

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

DOCUMENT NAME: P:\ADIP\EPA Amnesty Program.wpd

OFFICE	ADIP		ADIP	DD:NRR	RPZ	D:NRR	ERG
NAME	JMonninger*		BBoger	RZimmerman		SCollins	WTravers
DATE	11/15/99		11/15/99	11/16/99		11/16/99	11/16/99

OFFICIAL FILE COPY

PDR ORG

NRC FILE CENTER COPY
99-201

DISTRIBUTION FOR GREEN TICKET NO. 19990537

Central File (w/original incoming)
Public Document Room (w/incoming)
EDO #19990537
EDO Reading
WTravers
FMiraglia
CPaperiello
PNorry
JBlaha
SBurns
JLee, IP
SCollins/RZimmerman
ADIP R/F
BSheron
NRR Mailroom (EDO#G19990537 w/incoming)
NOlson
JMonninger



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

November 18, 1999

Mr. Francis X. Lyons
Regional Administrator, Region V
United States Environmental Protection Agency
Great Lakes National Program Office
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60604-3590

Dear Mr. Lyons:

Thank you for your letter of October 20, 1999, in which you forwarded a copy of "Amnesty Irrational: How the Nuclear Regulatory Commission Fails to Hold Nuclear Reactors Accountable for Violations of Its Own Safety Regulations" authored by the group Public Citizen. The United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) was aware of the report and has been pursuing resolution of a number of design basis issues, the subject matter of the report, for some time. We are also familiar with the data used in developing this report, as it is required to be submitted by power reactor licensees in accordance with NRC regulations and is publically available. We intend on continuing our efforts related to the review of design basis issues to determine whether improvements to our regulatory processes are warranted.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William D. Travers", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

William D. Travers
Executive Director
for Operations

Mr. Francis X. Lyons
 Regional Administrator, Region V
 United States Environmental Protection Agency
 Great Lakes National Program Office
 77 West Jackson Boulevard
 Chicago, Illinois 60604-3590

Dear Mr. Lyons:

Thank you for your letter of October 20, 1999, in which you forwarded a copy of "Amnesty Irrational: How the Nuclear Regulatory Commission Fails to Hold Nuclear Reactors Accountable for Violations of Its Own Safety Regulations" authored by the group Public Citizen. I assure you that the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) was aware of the report and has taken it under advisement. The NRC has been pursuing resolution of the subject matter of the report, design basis issues, for some time. Furthermore, we are familiar with the data used in developing this report, as it is required to be submitted by power reactor licensees in accordance with NRC regulations and is publically available. We will continue our programs to evaluate this data, along with additional information independently collected by the NRC, in determining whether further revisions are needed to our regulations and policies.

Sincerely,

William D. Travers
 Executive Director
 for Operations

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

DOCUMENT NAME: P:\ADIP\EPA Amnesty Program.wpd

OFFICE	ADIP		ADIP		DD:NRR		D:NRR		EDO	
NAME	JMonninger		P ²		RZimmerman		SCollins		WTravers	
DATE	11/15/99		11/15/99		11/ /99		11/ /99		11/ /99	

OFFICIAL FILE COPY

#1
 11/16

ACTION

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: Francis X. Lyons
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

DUE: 11/18/99

EDO CONTROL: G19990537
DOC DT: 10/20/99
FINAL REPLY:

TO: Travers, EDO

FOR SIGNATURE OF : Travers, EDO ** GRN ** CRC NO:

DESC: REVIEW OF AN AUGUST 1999 REPORT, "AMNESTY IRRATIONAL: HOW THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION FAILS TO HOLD NUCLEAR REACTORS ACCOUNTABLE FOR VIOLATIONS OF ITS OWN SAFETY REGULATIONS"

ROUTING: Travers
Paperiello
Miraglia
Norry
Blaha
Burns
Lee, IP

DATE: 10/25/99

ASSIGNED TO: NRR CONTACT: Collins

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

All action: ADIP: Matthews → ADIP as of 10/28/99
NRR Received: October 26, 1999
NRR Routing: Collins/Jimmerman
ADIP
Aheron
NRR Mailroom

ACTION
DUE TO NRR DIRECTOR'S OFFICE
BY <u>11/10/99</u>