

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 <sup>2</sup>		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*

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