



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
GREAT LAKES NATIONAL PROGRAM OFFICE  
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD  
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

OCT 20 1999

R-19J

Dr. William D. Travers  
Executive Director for Operations  
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Dear Dr. Travers:

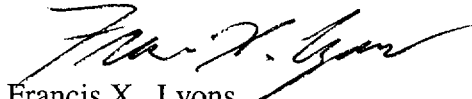
I am forwarding to you for your agency's review and consideration, an August 1999 report authored by the group Public Citizen, entitled "*Amnesty Irrational: How the Nuclear Regulatory Commission Fails to Hold Nuclear Reactors Accountable for Violations of Its Own Safety Regulations.*"

I was presented with this report by a member of the public at a September 23, 1999 public meeting on binational Great Lakes issues sponsored by the International Joint Commission (IJC). The IJC had recently made some formal recommendations to the Governments of the United States and Canada regarding a variety of issues involving nuclear energy. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) formally responded to these recommendations on behalf of our country. EPA staff worked closely with Mr. Kevin Burke, Senior Foreign Relations Officer, Office of International Programs to insure that your agency's views and concerns were addressed in our formal response which I have enclosed with this letter (please see recommendations 15 through 17).

Upon receipt of this report at the public meeting, I stated that while EPA does not have jurisdiction and responsibility for reactor safety issues, I would make sure that the report would be forwarded to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for review.

If I or my staff can lend any assistance to your agency while they review and respond to this report, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely yours,

  
Francis X. Lyons  
Great Lakes National Program Manager

Enclosures