



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

November 2, 1999

PDR  
AG 15-1

The Honorable James M. Inhofe, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Clean Air, Wetlands,  
Private Property and Nuclear Safety  
Committee on Environment and Public Works  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Enclosed for the information of the Subcommittee is a copy of a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to be published shortly in the Federal Register. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is proposing to amend its regulations to specify those sections in 10 CFR Part 72 that apply to general licensees, specific licensees, certificate holders, and applicants for a specific license or a certificate of compliance to allow these entities to more clearly determine which sections of the regulations apply to their activities. In addition, these amendments would incorporate flexibility into 10 CFR Part 72 by specifying the conditions under which an applicant for a specific license may use an NRC-approved cask design without being subject to additional NRC license hearings; and the conditions under which cask fabrication may take place prior to NRC approval.

These amendments would eliminate regulatory uncertainty, reduce the regulatory burden on applicants for a 10 CFR Part 72 license, and provide increased flexibility to manufacturers of spent fuel storage casks. This proposed change would have no detrimental impact on public health and safety, and the right of the public to comment on cask designs would not be affected by this rulemaking.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis K. Rathbun".

Dennis K. Rathbun, Director  
Office of Congressional Affairs

Enclosure:  
Federal Register Notice

cc: Senator Bob Graham



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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

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The Honorable Joe Barton, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Energy and Power  
Committee on Commerce  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

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Dennis K. Rathbun, Director  
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cc: Representative Ralph M. Hall