

March 1, 2006

David Lochbaum
Director, Nuclear Safety Project
Union of Concerned Scientists
1707 H Street NW, Suite 600
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Mr. Lochbaum:

Your petition dated January 25, 2006, as supplemented by the letter dated February 2, 2006, addressed to Mr. Luis A. Reyes, Executive Director for Operations at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), and filed on behalf of your organization and numerous co-petitioners, has been referred to me pursuant to Section 2.206 of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR 2.206). You request that the NRC issue a demand for information (DFI) to the licensees for operating and decommissioning nuclear power reactors and operating and decommissioning research and test reactors, requiring them to provide information regarding programs to detect the potential release of water contaminated with radioactive materials. As the basis for your request, you point out several examples of contamination at NRC-licensed facilities and cite NRC regulations requiring licensees to have controls to limit the release of radioactive materials and to limit the radiation dose individuals receive from the operation of NRC-licensed facilities.

On February 2, 2006, you were informed by Mr. William Reckley, the NRC Petition Manager, that your petition has been accepted for review by the NRC staff pursuant to 10 CFR 2.206. As provided in 10 CFR 2.206, we will take action on your request within a reasonable time. Your petition is being reviewed by organizations in several NRC offices to ensure your concerns are being considered in ongoing NRC activities related to the issue of the release of contaminated water at NRC-licensed facilities. Many of our activities in this area may not have been public knowledge before you submitted your petition. Actions underway or being considered include the conduct of special inspections, revisions to NRC regulations and related guidance documents, revisions to NRC inspection procedures, issuance of one or more generic communications, and the scheduling of public meetings with licensees, industry groups, and other stakeholders. For example, a public meeting has been scheduled for mid-March 2006 with an industry task force assessing this issue and problems such as those discovered at the Braidwood Station and Indian Point Nuclear Generating Station. We encourage you and your co-petitioners to attend that public meeting. As Mr. Reckley mentioned in the February 2, 2006, telephone call, we would also like to have a technical review meeting within the next several weeks with you and your co-petitioners to discuss NRC activities and the requests in your petition.

I have enclosed for your information a copy of the notice of receipt of your request for action under 10 CFR 2.206 that is being filed with the Office of the Federal Register for publication. Additionally, Management Directive 8.11, "Review Process for 10 CFR 2.206 Petitions," and the associated brochure NUREG/BR-0200, "Public Petition Process," are available in the NRC Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) under Accession Nos. ML041770328 and ML013600445.

D. Lochbaum

- 2 -

I would like to express my appreciation for your effort in bringing your concerns to the attention of the NRC. Please feel free to contact your Petition Manager, Mr. William Reckley, at (301) 415-1323 to discuss any questions related to this petition.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Christopher I. Grimes, Director
Division of Policy and Rulemaking
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure: *Federal Register* Notice

cc w/encl: See following pages

2.206 Petition Dated January 25, 2006, as supplemented on February 2, 2006

cc:

Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility
PO Box 1328
San Luis Obispo, CA 93406

Frieda Berryhill
2610 Grendan Avenue
Wilmington, DE 19802

Jon Block
Attorney at Law
94 Main Street
P.O. Box 566
Putney, VT 05346-0566

Lou Zeller
Nuclear Campaign Coordinator
Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League
PO Box 88
Glendale Springs, NC 28629

Jeffrey Brown
22 Mary Ann Drive
Brick, NJ 08723

Deb Katz
Citizens Awareness Network
Box 83
Shelburne Falls, MA 01370

Norm Cohen
Executive Director
Coalition for Peace and Justice
321 Barr Avenue
Linwood, NJ 08221

Matt Baker
Executive Director
Environment Colorado
1536 Wynkoop Street, Suite 100
Denver, CO 80202

Holly Binns
Field Director
Florida Public Interest Research Group
26 E. Park Ave.
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Glenn Carroll
Coordinator
Georgians Against Nuclear Energy
PO Box 8574
Atlanta, GA 31106

Sidney Goodman
158 Grandview Lane
Mahwah, NJ 07430

Alan Muller
Executive Director
Green Delaware
Box 69
Port Penn, DE 19731

Ms. N. Kymn Harvin, Ph.D.
165 Edgewood Road
Watchung, NJ 07069

Suzanne Leta
Advocate
New Jersey Public Interest Research Group
11 N. Willow Street
Trenton, NJ 08608

Jim Warren
Executive Director
North Carolina Waste Awareness &
Reduction Network
PO Box 61051
Durham, NC 27715-1051

Dave Kraft
Director
Nuclear Energy Information Service
PO Box 1637
Evanston, IL 60204-1637

cc:

Paul Gunter
Director, Reactor Watchdog Project
Nuclear Information and Resource Service
1424 16th Street NW, #404
Washington, DC 20036

David Masur
Director
PennEnvironment
1334 Walnut Street, 6th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Mary Lampert
Pilgrim Watch
148 Washington Street
Duxbury, MA 02332

Dolores C. Pino, Esq.
7200 Wilson Terrace
Morton Grove, IL 60053-1142

Michele Boyd
Legislative Director, Energy Program
Public Citizen
215 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20003

Mike Shriberg, Ph.D.
Director
Public Interest Group in Michigan
103 E. Liberty Street, Suite 202
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Lisa Rainwater van Suntum
Indian Point Campaign Director
Riverkeeper, Inc.
828 South Broadway
Tarrytown, NY 10591

Jane Swanson
Spokesperson and Member
Board of Directors
San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace
P.O. Box 164
Pismo Beach, CA 93448

Luke Metzger
Advocate
Texas Public Interest Research Group
700 West Avenue
Austin, TX 78701
1282 Valley of Lakes

Eric Epstein
Chairman
TMI Alert
4100 Hillsdale Road
Harrisburg, PA 17112

Norm Cohen
Executive Director
UNPLUG Salem Campaign
321 Barr Avenue
Linwood, NJ 08221

Sandra Gavutis
Executive Director
C-10 Foundation
Newburyport, MA 01950

Nancy Burton
Connecticut Coalition Against Millstone
147 Cross Highway
Redding Ridge, CT 06876

James P. Riccio
Nuclear Policy Analyst
Greenpeace
702 H Street, NW, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20001

Ralph Andersen
Chief Health Physicist
Nuclear Energy Institute
1776 I Street, NW Suite 400
Washington, DC 20006-3708

Sean Bushart
Electric Power Research Institute
3420 Hillview Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94304