



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

November 13, 2001

Mr. Raymond Shadis
New England Coalition
on Nuclear Pollution
Post Office Box 545
Brattleboro, Vermont 05302

Dear Mr. Shadis:

I am responding to your letter dated October 12, 2001, concerning the temporary shutdown of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) website. We took this action for the purpose of performing a review of all the material on the website in order to avoid facilitating the information gathering processes of those seeking to harm the United States of America. Our action in initiating a review of our website is one undertaken by many government agencies as part of an ongoing effort to thwart the information-gathering activities of terrorists. The operation of the NRC website was restored within approximately one week, on October 18. Many categories of documents that were formerly available, including material pertinent to ongoing rulemaking proceedings are currently accessible.

As of this writing, the website includes information on the NRC's mission and governing legislation; how to contact NRC, public meeting notices, Agreement State Programs, the agency telephone directory; news releases; NRC regulations published in 10 CFR; current rulemakings; access to the agency document management system (ADAMS) containing more than 125,000 publicly available documents; information about NRC's Public Document Room; FOIA information; contracting opportunities; opportunities for employment, information on how to report a safety concern, the Inspector General's hotline; and materials on the Regulatory Information Conference.

Our review of the remaining materials is going forward in a deliberate and systematic manner. We will continue to restore documents promptly as their review is completed and it is deemed appropriate to do so.

The Commission will remain sensitive to the need for information on the part of its stakeholders. While there is no cause for an across the board lengthening of schedules, consideration will be given, as necessary, to the existence of special circumstances where the unavailability on the website of specified documents has actually and reasonably prevented parties to adjudications or participants in rulemakings from meeting established deadlines.

Sincerely,

Richard A. Meserve

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New England Coalition on Nuclear Pollution

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POST OFFICE BOX 545, BRATTLEBORO, VERMONT 05302

October 12, 2001

Annette L. Vietti-Cook
 Commission Secretary
 US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
 Washington, CD 20555-0001

Madame Secretary,

Please advise the Commission, by transmission of this letter to the Commissioners, of our complete dismay at the shutdown of the NRC Web Site.

www.nrc.gov

[U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Web Site Banner]
 Our site is not operational at this time. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has taken the action to shut down its web site. In support of our mission to protect public health and safety, we are performing a review of all material on our site. We appreciate your patience and understanding during these difficult times.

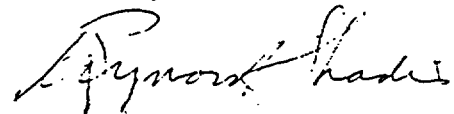
While we understand the need for heightened safeguards and security, closing this site leaves most parties with interest in NRC proceedings totally without access to vital information resources or reference material.

We believe that the NRC website shutdown, by denying access to information without which there can be no meaningful participation, invalidates the standing schedule of all activities that invite or require timely notice, comment, or filing. We therefore request that the NRC schedule (calendar) be adjusted, when the site is reopened, to compensate for the time lost.

In addition, closing the site adds to the information gathering handicaps of citizen intervenors and the general public while offering almost no impact on staff and licensees. We therefore request that all licensing and rulemaking activities be suspended until the website and access to relevant NRC documents is restored.

Thank you for your consideration. We eagerly await your response.

Sincerely,



Raymond Shadis
 On Behalf of NECNP