



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION I
475 ALLENDALE ROAD
KING OF PRUSSIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19406-1415**

November 12, 2003

The Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority
ATTN: Hector Alejandro, Director
Planning & Environmental
Protection Directorate
P. O. Box 364267
San Juan, Puerto Rico 00936-4267

**SUBJECT: PROPOSED ARRANGEMENTS FOR UPCOMING VISIT BY NRC
COMMISSIONER MERRIFIELD**

Dear Mr. Alejandro:

This letter is in reference to a telephone conversation between Mr. Carlos Velez of your staff and myself, regarding a proposed visit of the BONUS facility located in Ricon, Puerto Rico. As discussed during our conversation, the Honorable Jeffrey S. Merrifield, plans to visit Puerto Rico during the first week of December 2003. Commissioner Merrifield is one of three presidentially-appointed Commissioners who provide policy direction and oversight of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff. Commissioner Merrifield will be the first NRC Commissioner to visit Puerto Rico since the establishment of the NRC in 1974. A copy of the Commissioner's autobiography is enclosed.

Commissioner Merrifield plans to visit the BONUS site on Tuesday, December 2, 2003, at 1:00 p.m. The purpose of the Commissioner's visit will site familiarization and understanding future plans for the site. It is intended that the tour be limited to those areas of the facility that would be accessible to members of the general public.

Commissioner Merrifield will be accompanied by his assistant, Mr. John Thoma; Mr. Luis Reyes, Regional Administrator, Region II; Mr. George Pangburn, Director, Division of Nuclear Materials Safety, Region I; and myself.

The Puerto Rico Electric
Power Authority

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Thank you for your assistance and cooperation. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at (404) 562-4729 or via e-mail at jmp2@nrc.gov

Sincerely

/RA/

John M. Pelchat, Chief
Nuclear Materials Safety Branch 4
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

Enclosure: As stated

cc w/encl:
Commonwealth of Puerto Rico

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Commissioner Jeffrey S. Merrifield



The Honorable Jeffrey S. Merrifield was sworn in for a second term as a Commissioner of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission on August 5, 2002. Mr. Merrifield has served as a Commissioner since October 23, 1998, when he was first appointed to the Commission.

Prior to assuming that post, he had served for several years as a senior counsel and legislative assistant to two United States Senators and as a Washington, D.C., attorney, specializing in environmental and regulatory issues.

Immediately before joining the NRC, Mr. Merrifield was Majority Counsel and Staff Director of the Senate Subcommittee on Superfund, Waste Control and Risk Assessment under the chairmanship of Sen. Robert Smith (R-NH). During nearly four years in that assignment, he drafted legislation dealing with solid and hazardous waste disposal and cleanup regulation. In addition, he advised Senator Smith, who was also Chairman of the Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, on environmental matters involving facilities of the Departments of Defense and Energy.

From September 1992 to January 1995, Mr. Merrifield was an associate of the Washington, D.C., law firm of McKenna & Cuneo, where he represented a broad range of clients on environmental, contracting and regulatory issues.

Mr. Merrifield, a native of Antrim, N.H., majored in political science and history at Tufts University, where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree, magna cum laude, in 1985. He received his Juris Doctorate degree from Georgetown University Law Center in 1992.

Mr. Merrifield is married and has two sons and one daughter. He is a member of the bar of both New Hampshire and the District of Columbia.