

December 9, 2003

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December 9, 2003 (4:10PM)

OFFICE OF SECRETARY
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DRAFT POLICY STATEMENT

68FR62642

Michael Mariotte
Executive Director
Nuclear Information and Resource Service
1424 16th Street, NW, Suite 404
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Mr. Mariotte:

I am responding to your November 14, 2003, request for additional time to respond to the November 5, 2003, Federal Register notice (68 FR 62642) that provided a 60-day period to comment on the Commission's draft Policy Statement on the Treatment of Environmental Justice Matters in NRC Regulatory and Licensing Actions. You requested an extension of time for approximately 180 days to July 4, 2004 and at least 10 public meetings.

A 60-day comment period provided in the November notice is twice the 30-day time period that is required by the Administrative Procedure Act for a formal rulemaking. The Commission is satisfied that the 60-day period is appropriate to air the issues associated with this policy statement. However, the Commission has no objection to an extension of time for an additional 30 days. A Federal Register notice will be issued to announce the extension.

We note that by letter dated, September 12, 2003, you informed the Commission that "in the near future" you expected to provide additional comments and legal analysis to the Commission on environmental justice issues. I responded by letter dated October 14, 2003 that the Commission would soon be publishing a draft policy statement for comment. We look forward to your comments.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Annette L. Vietti-Cook

December , 2003

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Executive Director
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1424 16th Street, NW, Suite 404
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Sincerely,

Annette L. Vietti-Cook
Secretary

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