



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

March 8, 2000

COMMISSIONER

The Honorable John Edwards
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

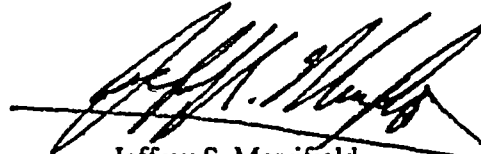
Dear Senator Edwards:

On February 24-25, 2000, I had the opportunity to visit the Global Nuclear Fuel (GNF) facility and the Brunswick Nuclear Power Plant near Wilmington, North Carolina. During these visits, I conducted extensive tours of the facilities, met with plant employees and government and community leaders, and held a press conference. I also had the pleasure to meet with senior executives, including Skip Orser, Carolina Power and Light's (CP&L) Executive Vice President of Energy Supply, and Craig Kipp, GNF's President and Chief Operating Officer, to discuss important matters facing the nuclear industry and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). I believe the visits were successful because they gave me a hands-on perspective of operational performance, they provided an opportunity for GNF and CP&L management and me to exchange views on important matters, and they provided an excellent forum for me to share information about the nuclear industry with employees, the public, and the media.

I am aware that many of your constituents are interested in the safety and economic issues associated with the Global Nuclear Fuel facility and the Brunswick plant. As I have done with a number of Senators and Congressmen over the last year, I would like to extend an offer to personally brief you on the results of my visits. Not only will this allow me to share with you my impression of the facilities, but I can also discuss my own views of how electric industry restructuring and our reinvention efforts at the NRC may affect your constituents.

In the coming days, I will have my staff contact your scheduler about arranging a meeting with you. In the interim, should you or your staff have any questions, please feel free to call me at (301) 415-1855 or Brian McCabe, my Technical Assistant for Reactors, at (301) 415-1867.

With best wishes,



Jeffrey S. Merrifield

B-1