

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

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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

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Sincerely,  
/RA/

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Division of Policy and Rulemaking  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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DATE	2/15/06	2/24/06	2/17/06	2/15/06	3/1/06

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

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

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