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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

August 30, 1979

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The Honorable Joseph M. Hendrie
Chairman, Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C.

Dear Chairman Hendrie:

I am writing out of concern over developments that have occurred with respect to the National Bureau of Standards' testing reactor at Gaithersburg, Maryland.

Commission officials informed my staff today that during the course of NRC's routine inspection of the premises they uncovered radioactive contamination in the area surrounding the test reactor building. I am told that this radioactive material has been removed from the soil and that further investigation is taking place to identify the source of the contamination.

While I am pleased to hear that the contamination has been removed, I wish to help ensure that no further contamination will ensue, in light of the potential impact to the area. I, therefore, urge the Commission to continue its investigation as vigorously and expeditiously as possible and I would appreciate it if you would keep me abreast of developments.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Charles McC. Mathias, Jr.
Charles McC. Mathias, Jr.
United States Senator

CM:mh

cc: Victor Stello

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