

Chairman John F. Ahearne
NRC
1717 H St, NW
Wash, DC 20555

DOCKET NUMBER
PROPOSED RULE

PR-2

46 FR 17216

Apr 6 - 81



Dear Sir =

An article in the Mar 19 New York Times says the NRC is proposing rule changes in the licensing of new atomic reactors. Among the provisions would be a limit of 25 days in which intervenors could demand relevant information from the applicant.

Also, a proposal to eliminate any requirements that the NRC provide any supporting data.

Finally, according to the report, the new rule would allow motions for dismissal of intervenors' objections at any time.

We can understand the NRC's concern, following the incident at 3-Mile Island, to get the reactor program rolling again. However - if your understanding is correct - wasn't the NRC chartered, in theory at least, to ensure public safety?

If your rule change goes into effect, we suggest the following amendments:

- 1 - Keep the public informed promptly of major developments, such as this one, not by publication in the Congressional Record, but by clearly-worded releases to the news services, with a minimum of jargon.
- 2 - If your commission is truly a regulatory one, it seems to us you should be prepared to respond promptly to public requests for information. If photocopies of relevant documents are asked for, they ought to be available for no more than 5¢ a page. (We've heard the NRC was charging 25¢ or 50¢ a page)

Finally, though this subject doesn't have a bearing on your proposed rule change, we'd like to make a suggestion about radioactive waste disposal.

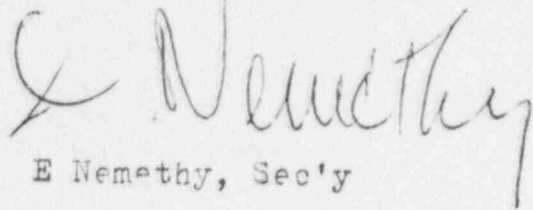
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At least four areas of the country are now heavily contaminated with radioactive waste: the states of Washington, Idaho and S Carolina. Also, there are the sites of underground atomic tests - in Nevada?

Instead of opening more waste dumps, why not dump wastes in areas already contaminated?

Very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "E. Nemethy". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

E Nemethy, Sec'y

cc: To our public officials