

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, U.S.  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

October 31, 1984

Carlton Kammerer, Director  
Office of Congressional Affairs  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory  
Commission  
Washington, D. C. 20555

The attached communication is submitted for your consideration, and to ask that the request made therein be complied with, if possible.

If you will advise me of your action in this matter and have the letter returned to me with your reply, I will appreciate it.

Very truly yours,

Beverly B. Byron

M.C.

Maryland's 6th

District.

OCA Note  
① Reply to the Attention of  
Corrine McCusker  
in the Frederick, Md. Office  
10 East Church St.  
Frederick, Md. 21701.  
② Inside Address deleted  
per telecon w/ Corrine  
McCusker, 11/15/84

The Hon. Beverly Byron  
U. S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC

Dear Rep. Byron,

I have written to you previously regarding the proposed consolidation of office space for the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Headquarters in Montgomery County. Several years ago, as had indicated previously, there was quite an imbroglio between the members of the Commission, the employees, GSA and Congress regarding the location at which the several dispersed offices of NRC Headquarters should be consolidated into a single location. Much effort went into resolving this question, including Congressional hearings, GSA reports, and testimony from all interested parties. It was demonstrated that a location in Montgomery County, Maryland would be beneficial both to the agency and the Federal Government from a financial and operational point of view, and to the vast majority of employees who live in and around Montgomery County, the current location of most of the agency's current office space.

Although Congress appeared to have settled the question after much investment of time and effort (all of which was financed by taxpayers), the course selected by Congress was never implemented due to the severe budget constraints imposed in 1981. Congress at that time had determined that the most desirable location for consolidation would be in Montgomery County, either in Silver Spring or Bethesda.

Now, several years have gone by and traffic conditions for commuters have worsened markedly. Route 270 is literally choked with congestion all the way up past Germantown, Maryland as early as 6:30 A.M. The Red Line of Metro is operational from downtown Washington to the Grosvenor station, and soon will be extended to Shady Grove Road in Gaithersburg, Maryland. Commuting time for me has increased considerably from about thirty minutes to about fifty minutes one way from my home in Germantown to Silver Spring. Everywhere houses and buildings are being constructed with the corresponding road improvements more than ten years behind the need. Yet, the NRC Commissioners, acting in their own personal self-interest, are now scheming with the GSA to arrange for NRC consolidation in downtown Washington, DC.

This is evidenced by the recent advertisement in the Sunday, October 21 edition of the Washington Post (copy attached) for office space for agency consolidation. That this advertisement was for NRC consolidation has been confirmed by NRC management in a staff meeting today. Although the advertisement mentions both downtown and Bethesda, Maryland locations, the area described in Bethesda is much more limited than the much larger area described in downtown Washington. If GSA were really looking for office space in Montgomery County, it would have done better to specify space within walking distance of any of six Metro stations from Bethesda up to Shady Grove Road station in Gaithersburg. It appears obvious that the more people have to commute in a direction away from downtown Washington, the greater will be the easing of traffic congestion travelling toward Washington. Also, the further away one is from downtown, the less expensive would be the office space per square foot. Use of Metro would still be encouraged, and Metro would be more efficient because more opposite direction usage of Metro would result, requiring less subsidy

by area taxpayers. Another ludicrous requirement that indicates that the GSA and NRC are not serious about finding office space in Montgomery County is the provision for 11 inside parking spaces. Inside parking would not be available at a great many Montgomery County locations where land is not at as much of a premium as it is downtown. According to the advertisement it would appear that no matter how much money could be saved by the government by consolidating in Montgomery County as opposed to downtown, the GSA would not accept the bid unless there were indoor parking spaces available. And you can just guess who is going to get five of those spaces, don't you?

As a taxpayer and Federal employee I resent this calculating and deceptive use of the Federal procurement system to subvert the best interests of taxpayers and employees to serve the personal interests of the Commissioners of the NRC. If ever there was meaning to the Constitutional provision for sharing of power between the different branches of government, this is one instance where it would appear to be most appropriate for the Legislative Branch to step in and start asking questions about the basis for the GSA advertisement I have discussed.

Does the advertisement further the best interests of taxpayers by minimizing the cost of obtaining the required office space? Are special interests involved in so restricting the specifications for Montgomery County office space that nothing available would fit the description? Does the proposed location of NRC in downtown Washington or Bethesda, Maryland further or hinder the improvement of air quality in the Washington area? Would the efficiency of Metro be improved or degraded by locating NRC downtown rather than in Montgomery County? I think taxpayers have a right to know whether the Government is needlessly spending additional tax dollars for office space and for Metro subsidies merely to serve the personal interests of five appointed Commissioners at a time when others are looking every whichway to save a buck and avoid increasing the Federal deficit?

Finally, please also notice that bids are required to be submitted before November 1, 1984. just a few days before the Federal elections. Could this be an attempt to rush through the selection of office space while Congress is in recess and its members busy with election campaigns? Why the rush. Surely, it would take more than 2 weeks for any interested parties (i.e., those not already alerted) to make arrangements to put together a real estate deal for such a large building or buildings. We waited this long - why set a deadline to settle the matter in two weeks? Something is definitely fishy here, and I am looking to you, Rep. Byron, to bring it out into the open. If this sort of thing can be allowed to go on, it probably is multiplied a thousand-fold throughout the government, and I don't want to have to pay for it. Please let me know what you can do to assure that my tax dollars are not squandered and thousands of NRC employees are not forced to ride hundreds of thousands of hours in additional commuting time through lower quality air just to satisfy five individuals with free inside parking spaces because they happen to be "Commissioners." I await your reply.

Sincerely,



## U.S. GOVERNMENT

### DESIRES TO LEASE FOR AGENCY CONSOLIDATION IN BETHESDA, MD OR DOWNTOWN WASHINGTON, D.C.

A total of 544,473 square feet, one location is preferred, however, may be in multiple buildings in phased blocks: Phase I—162,305 sq. ft. plus 11 inside parking spaces; Phase II—307,247 sq. ft. plus 5 parking spaces and Phase III—74,921 sq. ft. plus 20 parking spaces.

If in Bethesda, Md. this building, or buildings, must be within an approximate five (5) minute walking distance of one another and an approximate ten (10) minute walk or ½ mile radius from the Red Line Metro station at the intersection of Wisconsin Avenue and Old Georgetown Road. If in downtown Washington, D.C. building or building(s) must be within an approximate five (5) minute walking distance of one another, and an approximate ten (10) minute walk or ½ mile radius from a Metrorail station within the following delineated area:

South of N Street, NW., and Massachusetts Avenue NW.; West of 1st Street, N.W.; North of the Southwest Freeway (I-395) and East of 23rd Street, NW., and New Hampshire Avenue, NW., building(s) must meet all GSA firesafety and handicapped requirements.

Occupancy is required in order of preference—as follows: 1.) The entire block of space within 18 months of award or 2.) Occupancy is required for Phase I within 18 months and the remaining blocks to be considered in combination phases from 18 months up to 36 months of award.

Please submit information concerning available space by November 1, 1984, to: Mr. James Smale, GSA, Leasing Branch (WPEL), 7th & D Streets, SW., Washington, DC 20407. For further information call (202) 472-1137.

## U.S. GOVERNMENT

### REQUIRES REPLACEMENT OFFICE SPACE IN BETHESDA, MD OR DOWNTOWN WASHINGTON, D.C.

57,250 square feet plus 11 official parking spaces. If in Bethesda, Md., must be located within an approximate ten (10) minute walk or ½ mile radius from the Red Line Metro Station at the intersection of Wisconsin Avenue and Old Georgetown Road. If in downtown Washington, D.C. must be within an approximate ten (10) minute walk or ½ mile radius from a Metrorail station within the following delineated area:

South of N Street, NW., and Massachusetts Avenue, NW.; West of 1st Street, NW.; north of the Southwest Freeway (I-395) and east of 23rd Street, NW., and New Hampshire Avenue, NW., building(s) must meet all GSA firesafety and handicapped requirements.

Occupancy is required by August 1, 1985.

Please submit information concerning available space by November 1, 1984, to: Mr. James Smale, GSA Leasing Branch (WPEL), 7th and D Streets, SW., Washington, DC 20407. For further information call (202) 472-1137.

MICHAEL D. BARNES  
8TH DISTRICT, MARYLAND

ASSISTANT MAJORITY WHIP

WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
401 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515  
(202) 225-5341

MONTGOMERY COUNTY OFFICE:  
SUITE 302  
11141 GEORGIA AVENUE  
WHEATON, MARYLAND 20902  
(301) 946-6801  
TTY-(301) 946-0108



Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

November 2, 1984

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Mr. Samuel J. Chilk  
Office of the Secretariat  
Docketing and Service Branch  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Chilk:

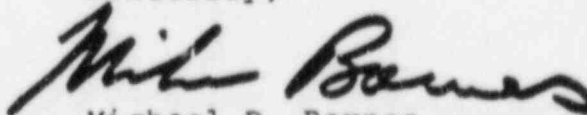
I am writing to support the proposed NRC rule to require NRC-licensed research reactors to convert from highly enriched uranium (HEU) to low enriched, non-weapons usable uranium fuels.

The conversion of our domestic, NRC-licensed research reactors will help demonstrate that the U.S. is willing to set the standard in the conversion of reactors to safer fuels. A good U.S. example will become increasingly important in convincing other nations to convert their reactors to safer fuels.

In addition, implementation of the proposed rule would help reduce the future threat of terrorism within the U.S. by reducing the amount of HEU in circulation. While at present NRC-licensed research reactors do not appear to be likely targets of terrorist groups, it is clear from past acts by international groups, as Commissioner Bernthal noted recently in Congressional testimony, "that a threat can materialize without sufficient warning from intelligence sources."

I appreciate having the opportunity to express my views in support of the NRC-proposed rule.

Sincerely,

  
Michael D. Barnes

MDB/lo

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