

DSI-14

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STATE OF ILLINOIS  
DEPARTMENT OF NUCLEAR SAFETY

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SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62704

Jim Edgar  
Governor

217-785-9900  
217-782-6133 (TDD)

Thomas W. Ortiger  
Director

December 18, 1996



Secretary  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555  
Attn: Docketing and Service Branch

Re: Illinois comments on DSI # 14 of the Strategic Assessment and Rebaselining study

Dear Sir:

The Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety has enclosed corrected copies of one page of our comments on the above-identified topic. The correction is the deletion of one line in the header of the page. There is no change in the substance of the comments.

Thank you for assistance in making this correction. If you want to contact me, you may call 217-785-9935 or email [collins@idns.state.il.us](mailto:collins@idns.state.il.us).

Sincerely,

*Steven C. Collins*

Steven C. Collins, Chief  
Division of Radioactive Materials

Enclosure

scc

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**Comments on USNRC's Strategic Assessment and Rebaselining Initiative**  
by the Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety

Direction Setting Issue Paper # 14  
"Public Communication Initiatives"

**Summary**

The Direction Setting Issue (DSI)--"What approach should the NRC take to optimize its communication with the public?"

We concur with the Commission's preliminary views regarding the options presented in DSI 14. Public concerns must be identified and addressed as early in the process as possible. Agreement States have routinely asked the NRC for the opportunity to provide early and substantive input into rules and policies being developed by the NRC that have impacts on Agreement States. Option 2, giving priority to early identification of public concerns, appears to address some of the concerns raised by Agreement States. Agreement States, representing regulatory authorities equivalent to the NRC, can use their experience and expertise to contribute toward identification and resolution of issues, and help identify otherwise unforeseen impacts.

The NRC's recent expansion of documents available electronically on various NRC home pages has been most welcome. Continued electronic access to correspondence, rule proposals and sealed source and device evaluations has eliminated some routine calls to the NRC to obtain information. More timely posting of material electronically would eliminate additional inquiries for copies of documents.

We agree with the suggestion to consider other interactive technology such as videoconferences and electronic meetings, however, the NRC must keep in mind that not all groups will have access to this technology. The NRC must consider alternative methods for participation by interested individuals or organizations.