



DOCKET NUMBER **PR 50**
PROPOSED RULE
(61 FR 49711)

DOCKETED
USNRC

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'96 NOV -7 P3:10

Nuclear Information and Resource Service

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November 06, 1996

Secretary John C. Hoyle
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mail Stop O-16 G15
One White Flint North
11555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, Maryland 20852-2738

Dear Secretary Hoyle:

On behalf of Nuclear Information and Resource Service and its members nationwide, I am writing in request of an extension to the comment period on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Draft Policy Statement on the Restructuring and Economic Deregulation of the Electric Utility Industry as noticed in the Federal Register, September 23, 1996 (Volume 61, Number 185, Page 49711- 49714).

As you are undoubtedly aware, the issue of electric utility deregulation and restructuring is receiving nearly daily media attention providing the public with a crash course on this very complex issue. NIRS has found that there is significant interest and concern among its membership pertaining not only to the economic issues arising out of utility deregulation but also regarding the public's health and safety and the potential impact of electrical utility deregulation on nuclear safety, plant security, decommissioning and nuclear waste management. We believe that the NRC and the nuclear industry would benefit from a thorough airing of these public concerns by way of extending the Federal Register comment period beyond the current December 9, 1996 deadline.

Therefore, NIRS respectfully requests that NRC extend the comment period 60 to 90 days.

Sincerely,

Paul Gunter, Director
Reactor Watchdog Project

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