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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 26, 1985

The Honorable Nunzio Palladino
Chairman
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Commissioner:

During the June 25 hearing on S. 1225, to renew and amend the Price-Anderson Act, considerable interest was voiced concerning estimates of damages that would likely result from accidents related to the transportation, storage, or disposal of nuclear wastes.

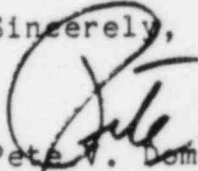
In their testimony, the Department of Energy indicated that they have commissioned a study at Brookhaven National Laboratory that relates to this subject matter. This raises the question of whether or not other relevant studies are underway or planned that would provide us with a more definitive knowledge base on accident consequences of waste-related nuclear accidents.

Given the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's active role in the Civilian Waste Repository program, and the Commission's involvement in economic risk assessments within the Office of Regulatory Research, it is likely that the Commission may have valuable information that would provide additional insight on offsite damages likely to result from waste-related nuclear accidents.

Any information that the Commission could provide to our Committee on NRC studies which are either available or currently underway relating to this subject would be most helpful to us during our consideration of Price-Anderson renewal.

I look forward to your response on this important matter.

Sincerely,


Pete V. Domenici
Chairman, Subcommittee on Energy
Research and Development

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