

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 5, 1997

The Honorable Shirley Ann Jackson, Chairman
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
11555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Dear Chairman Jackson:

In regards to the decommissioning of the Trojan Nuclear Plant near Rainier, Oregon, we understand the Commission staff is presently addressing issues concerning a one-time shipment of the Trojan Reactor Vessel as proposed by Portland General Electric Company in its March 31, 1997 letter to the NRC Office of Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards. As PGE's request is being considered, we request simply that the Commission ensure PGE's proposal not be reviewed narrowly as a shipping package issue, but reviewed for its overall effect on the safe decommissioning of Trojan and the public health and safety.

We understand the alternative to PGE's proposal for a one-time shipment would be to cut up the internal components of the reactor vessel and dispose of them separately. According to PGE this approach would result in substantially higher occupational radiation exposures to Trojan workers, more than 40 separate shipments instead of one, and could increase public exposures to radiation.

The Commission's rules for transporting radioactive materials were apparently written for reusable containers over the very wide variety of transportation conditions that might be encountered. PGE asserts the very limiting shipping restrictions it plans to impose on the one-time shipment to ensure safety will adequately compensate for any deviations from the technical provisions of the rules.

As the NRC reviews PGE's proposal to determine whether the proposed one-time shipment can be done safely, we request you consider one-time shipments in the context of the possible safety and environmental concerns of increased handling before, during, and after multiple shipments. We urge you to carefully consider this point and other relevant safety considerations when evaluating PGE's proposal.

6/9....To EDO to Prepare Response for Chairman's Signature....Date due Comm: 6/25
Cpy to: Chairman, RF, OCA to Ack....97-0590

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PDR COMMS NRCC
CORRESPONDENCE PDR

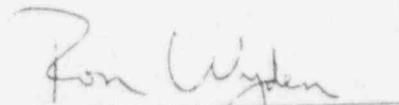
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We look forward to the results of your review.

Sincerely,



GORDON SMITH
United States Senator



RON WYDEN
United States Senator

cc: Commissioner Nils J. Diaz
Commissioner Kenneth C. Rogers
Commissioner Greta J. Dicus
Commissioner Edward McGaffigan Jr.