

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0504

March 19, 2003

The Honorable Richard A. Meserve Chairman  
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Chairman Meserve:

I am writing regarding the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's refusal to convene public hearings on crucial safety and environmental issues related to the existing and proposed Independent Spent Fuel Shortage Installation ("ISFSI") at the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant in San Luis Obispo, California.

Before expanding the inventory of spent fuel stored at the Diablo Canyon site, I strongly believe the NRC should address the significant risks already present from existing high-density spent fuel storage pools. Your decision to not hold public hearings on issues related to the safety of the ISFSI at Diablo Canyon is of serious concern to me and the residents living near the existing and proposed new facilities. While I realize that sensitive security information can not and should not be publicly disclosed, public hearings would go a long way to assure residents living near this site that your agency is taking the appropriate measures to improve public safety.

I urge you to reconsider your decision and allow for public input regarding the safety of the existing spent nuclear fuel facility and the proposed Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation. I appreciate your consideration of this request and your attention to this important matter. Thank you very much.

Sincerely yours,