

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

January 29, 1992

Mr. Ivan Selin
Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Chairman Selin:

We are writing to express our serious concerns regarding the conduct of the NRC staff in its handling of Congressional inquiries into the welding program at Seabrook.

As you know, the actions of the staff in this matter are the subject of a report referred to you recently (Case No. 90-31H) by the Office of the Inspector General. It is our understanding that you have referred the report to the staff with instructions to report back to the Commission.

We consider the Inspector General's findings shocking and deeply troubling. The IG's report describes numerous instances in which the NRC staff provided information to Congress that was both misleading and inaccurate. In at least one case, when the staff was called upon to assure Congress of the safety of the welds at Seabrook prior to plant licensing, the provision of inaccurate information suggests the intention to ram through the license without regard to legitimate safety concerns raised by Members of Congress.

As Commissioners, you must know that providing accurate, complete and timely answers to Congressional inquiries is among the most important of your duties. The failure to do so destroys the foundation of trust between the Commission and Congress and calls into question the NRC's ability and willingness to carry out its fundamental mission to protect the public health and safety.

In light of the Inspector General's report, we would like to know 1) what specific action the Commission has taken or plans to take to discipline those individuals who misled Congress, and 2) what generic action you are taking to make all employees aware of the need for total candor and cooperation with Congressional oversight committees.

We request that you respond to these concerns by the close of business on Tuesday, February 18th, so that the matter may be discussed at the House Interior Committee's Subcommittee on

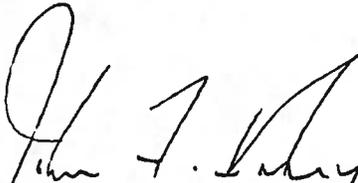
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Energy and Environment hearing on February 19th. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Kristan Van Hook at 225-2836. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,


Edward J. Markey
Member of Congress


Nicholas Mavroules
Member of Congress


John F. Kerry
Member of Congress


Edward M. Kennedy
Member of Congress

cc: Kenneth C. Rogers
James R. Curtiss
Forrest J. Remick
E. Gail de Planque