



State of New Jersey

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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JON S. CORZINE
Governor

February 10, 2006

The Honorable Nils J. Diaz, Chairman
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Dear Chairman Diaz:

As you may know, when I was a member of the United States Senate I sponsored legislation, S. 1381, mandating an independent assessment by the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) of Oyster Creek's safety and security performance, to be completed before the Nuclear Regulatory Commission issued a decision on renewing the license for an additional 20 years.

As Governor of New Jersey I strongly believe we need an independent assessment as part of the license renewal process to assess the safety, performance, and reliability of Oyster Creek. Therefore, I urge you to support the effort to have an independent assessment performed by individuals of the caliber of the NAS National Research Council. Their insights in looking at a plant as old as Oyster Creek will be valuable and applicable to other plants pursuing license renewal now and in the future.

I note that the NRC, along with several sister agencies, has provided funding for an NAS study of transportation of spent nuclear fuel. In a similar manner, having the NRC provide support to the National Academies to study Oyster Creek's safety and security, and identifying any areas for the NRC to conduct further research, would be an added assurance to the citizens around Oyster Creek that every possible avenue of expertise has been pursued to ensure that license renewal is prudent.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue. If you need further information on the safety or environmental implications for relicensing of Oyster Creek, please contact my Acting Commissioner for the Department of Environmental Protection, Lisa Jackson, at (609) 292-2885.

Sincerely,

John S. Corzine

c: The Honorable Frank Lautenberg
The Honorable H. James Saxton
The Honorable Robert Menendez
Ralph J. Cicerone, President, National Academy of Sciences