Dale E. Klein, Chairman
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
11555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Chairman Klein,

When your nomination was pending before this Committee in May of 2006, you stated
your belief that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission’s policy should be one of openness.
I recall you also said, “So what I often times tell people when issues come up, there are
usually three reasons: communication, communication, communication.” I couldn’t
agree more with both of those points.

Unfortunately, there has been a considerable lack of communication on the part of the
Commission. In particular, I am referring to the leak of high-enriched uranium at the
Nuclear Fuel Services plant in Erwin, Tennessee. This event happened prior to your
chairmanship, but the communication failure continued well after you assumed the helm.
I am both surprised and sorely disappointed.

The foundation of the Commission’s credibility is the public’s trust. That foundation is
shaken when events like these are obscured by the Commission’s lack of disclosure.
While there may be aspects of Nuclear Fuel Services’ activities that should rightly be
withheld from the public domain, clearly the secrecy over the event’s mere occurrence is
beyond any reasonable definition of openness.

I know that you share my belief that nuclear energy must play an increasing role in our
nation’s growing demand for energy. This will not happen unless and until the public
and this Committee have confidence that the Commission will ensure public health and
safety, and protect the environment. I am greatly concerned that missteps like this will
hinder our nation’s ability to expand this safe, clean, and necessary domestic energy
source.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

James M. Inhofe