

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: 04/22/05

EDO CONTROL: G20050258
DOC DT: 04/12/05
FINAL REPLY:

Senator James M. Jeffords
Senator Patrick Leahy
Representative Bernard Sanders
Representative John Olver

TO:

Chairman Diaz

FOR SIGNATURE OF : ** PRI **

CRC NO: 05-0191

Chairman Diaz

DESC:

ROUTING:

Implementation of the Recommendations of the GAO
to Improve NRC Regulatory Oversight of Spent Fuel
Management at Nuclear Power Plants

Reyes
Virgilio
Kane
Merschhoff
Silber
Dean
Burns
Strosnider, NMSS
Dyer, NRR
Collins, RI
Travers, RII
Caldwell, RIII
Mallett, RIV
Cyr, OGC

DATE: 04/14/05

ASSIGNED TO: CONTACT:
NSIR Zimmerman

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

Ref. G20050164. Respond to each Congressman
separately.

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ERIDS: SECY-01

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

Date Printed: Apr 13, 2005 13:32

PAPER NUMBER: LTR-05-0191 **LOGGING DATE:** 04/12/2005
ACTION OFFICE: EDO

AUTHOR: SEN James Jeffords
AFFILIATION: SEN
ADDRESSEE: Nils Diaz
SUBJECT: Urge the NRC to take action to implement the recommendations of the GAO to improve NRC regulatory oversight of spent fuel management at nuc power plants

ACTION: Signature of Chairman
DISTRIBUTION: RF, OCA to Ack

LETTER DATE: 04/12/2005
ACKNOWLEDGED: No
SPECIAL HANDLING: Comr. Correspondence

NOTES:
FILE LOCATION: ADAMS
DATE DUE: 04/26/2005 **DATE SIGNED:**

EDO --G20050258

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 12, 2005

The Honorable Nils J. Diaz
Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Commissioner Diaz:

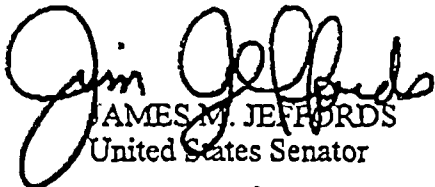
We are writing to urge the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to take aggressive action to implement the recommendations of the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to improve NRC regulatory oversight of spent fuel management at our nation's nuclear power plants.


In its April 2005 report, GAO raises a number of concerns about how NRC and nuclear plants track spent fuel. Although NRC regulations require plants to maintain tracking records and conduct physical inventories on a yearly basis, the regulations lack specification on how the regulations are implemented. As a result, the nuclear plants demonstrated inconsistent performance in controlling and accounting for spent fuel.

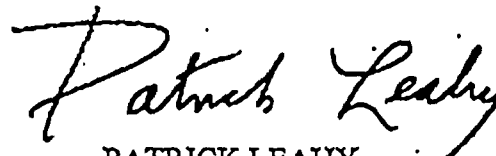
GAO strongly recommends that the NRC establish specific requirements for the control and accounting of spent fuel materials and how plants conduct physical inventories. GAO also recommends that the NRC develop and implement appropriate inspection procedures to verify nuclear plant's compliance with procedures in a timely manner.

We recognize that the NRC generally agrees with the conclusions and recommendations of the report and has initiated efforts to assess what regulatory and oversight measures will be necessary. We strongly encourage the NRC to move quickly to implement GAO's recommendations to ensure that the security of spent fuel is maximized at all nuclear power plants across the country.

Sincerely,


JAMES M. JEFFORDS
United States Senator


BERNARD SANDERS
U.S. Congressman


PATRICK LEAHY
United States Senator


JOHN OLVER
U.S. Congressman