

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.

Template: SECY-017

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:

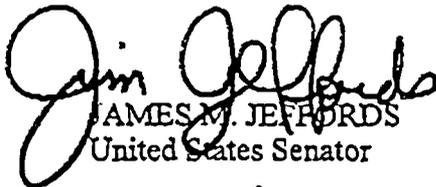
We are writing to urge the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to take aggressive action to implement the recommendations of the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to improve NRC regulatory oversight of spent fuel management at our nation's nuclear power plants.

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.

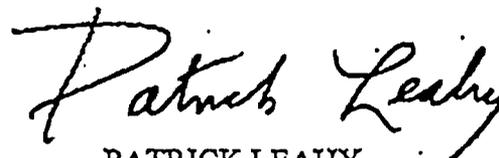
GAO strongly recommends that the NRC establish specific requirements for the control and accounting of spent fuel materials and how plants conduct physical inventories. GAO also recommends that the NRC develop and implement appropriate inspection procedures to verify nuclear plant's compliance with procedures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