May 9, 2005

The Honorable Nita M. Lowey
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Lowey:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am writing in response to your letter of March 29, 2005, in which you request that the NRC expeditiously resolve its objections to the release of the publicly available version of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) report, "Safety and Security of Commercial Spent Nuclear Fuel Storage."

On April 6, 2005, the NAS issued a publicly available version of its report. The April 6 version of the report contains the vast majority of the information that was in the version that was sent to the NRC for review prior to issuance. The NRC has worked with the NAS to develop a publicly available version of the report while ensuring appropriate protection of information that should not be disclosed. In this process, the Commission sought insights from other Executive Branch agencies. The NRC is incorporating those insights into the processes used to perform reviews for sensitive security information. This should allow future reviews to be completed in a more expeditious manner.

I want to thank you for your interest in this matter and assure you that the NRC strives to ensure openness in our regulatory process.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Nils J. Diaz