

November 30, 2005

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Kaptur:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to your letter of October 18, 2005, requesting that the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Administrator Michael Griffin and I attend a community meeting in your Congressional district to discuss the recent discovery of radioactive contamination at NASA's Plum Brook Reactor Facility in Sandusky, Ohio. The NRC staff participated in the public meeting held by NASA on October 19, 2005, and I assure you that the NRC will support a future community meeting to reassure the public that a plan is in place to resolve the Plum Brook issue.

As you are aware, the NRC's primary mission is protecting health and safety of the public. I assure you that the NRC is actively pursuing this matter with NASA to assess the contamination comprehensively, including what course of action is needed to remediate contaminated land.

On October 17, 2005, the NRC independently inspected the site and the surrounding areas where the contamination was detected. The inspection was focused on the review of recent events, including the detection of the radiological contamination, selective examinations of procedures and representative records, and observations of decommissioning activities in progress. The NRC's inspection and observations to date have not identified any NASA violations of NRC requirements. The NRC will continue its oversight of this matter until all provisions of the Plum Brook Reactor Facility decommissioning plan, including any required cleanup and remediation of land, have been met. At this time, based on NRC's independent verification of NASA's actions, there is no apparent risk to health and safety of the public.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Nils J. Diaz