

June 13, 2007

Mr. Jefferson Shue
Harbour Pointe Middle School
5000 Harbour Pointe Blvd
Mukilteo, WA 98275

Dear Mr. Shue:

This is in response to your recent letter to NRC Chairman Dale E. Klein regarding the role of nuclear power in the nation's energy mix and difficulties in dealing with high-level nuclear waste. You expressed the view that the United States should not use nuclear power because of the alleged "harm" it inflicts on people and the environment.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission's mission is to regulate the use of radioactive materials, including nuclear power, to protect the public health and the environment and the common defense and security. The NRC does not set the nation's energy policy - that is the job of the President, the Congress and the U.S. Department of Energy.

However, as our nation's elected leaders have stressed, it is clear that nuclear power needs to be part of the nation's energy mix as the demand for electricity grows and concern mounts over the effects of carbon emissions from non-nuclear power plants on the global climate. The NRC is dedicated to ensuring that any new nuclear power plants and the existing fleet of 104 commercial plants are operated safely.

Congress has directed the Department of Energy to construct and operate an underground geologic repository for high-level waste at Yucca Mountain, Nev. DOE is expected to submit a license application for Yucca Mountain to the NRC in June 2008. NRC's review will determine whether DOE's design for the repository is sufficient to protect nearby communities and the environment from any harmful radiation from the waste. In the meantime, the waste is stored safely at nuclear power plants.

I have enclosed some brochures and fact sheets on issues that you raised in your letter. These and much more information are available on the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov>.

Regards,

/RA/

David McIntyre
Office of Public Affairs

Enclosures: Fact sheets and backgrounders

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ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

David McIntyre
Office of Public Affairs

Enclosures: Fact sheets and backgrounders

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DATE	06/13/07

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