

**From:** Scott Burnell  
**Sent:** Friday, January 09, 2009 9:36 AM  
**To:** Brenda Akstulewicz  
**Subject:** FW: RE: Your e-mail to Chairman Klein

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**From:** Scott Burnell  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 07, 2009 11:24 AM  
**To:** 'ittaliano15@aim.com'  
**Subject:** RE: Your e-mail to Chairman Klein

Mr. Demartino;

Thank you for your e-mail to Nuclear Regulatory Commission Chairman Klein. Your questions are somewhat outside of the NRC's area of responsibility, but I'll answer them as best I can.

Does the public's opinion on nuclear energy determine if nuclear power plants are built? The NRC makes decisions on whether to grant licenses to build and operate nuclear power plants, based on technical information regarding environmental impacts and safety considerations. The NRC gathers public comment on environmental issues and includes that information in the agency's reviews. Comments such as "I want more nuclear power" or "I oppose nuclear power," however, do not provide useful information for the agency to consider, since the agency has no discretion in making its decisions. If the applicable requirements are met, the agency must issue a license.

What is the public's greatest concern with switching from coal power to nuclear power plants? The Energy Department deals with policy issues regarding what energy sources the United States should use. The NRC's environmental reviews only look at the potential impacts of a nuclear power plant.

Please let me know if you have additional questions. Thank you.

Scott Burnell  
Public Affairs Officer  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission

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### E-mail Properties

Mail Envelope Properties (5A7F273F3E481245BC055B36939D34630F7235042E)

**Subject:** FW: RE: Your e-mail to Chairman Klein  
**Sent Date:** 1/9/2009 9:35:59 AM  
**Received Date:** 1/9/2009 9:35:59 AM  
**From:** Scott Burnell

**Created By:** Scott.Burnell@nrc.gov

**Recipients:**

Brenda.Akstulewicz@nrc.gov (Brenda Akstulewicz)  
Tracking Status: None

Post Office:  
HQCLSTR01.nrc.gov

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MESSAGE	7518	1/9/2009

Options  
Expiration Date:  
Priority: olImportanceNormal  
ReplyRequested: False  
Return Notification: False

Sensitivity: olNormal  
Recipients received: