

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: 07/16/09

EDO CONTROL: G20090361

DOC DT: 06/23/09

FINAL REPLY:

Thomas P. D'Agostino
U.S. Department of Energy

TO:

Chairman Jaczko

FOR SIGNATURE OF :

** GRN **

CRC NO: 09-0310

Borchardt, EDO

DESC:

ROUTING:

NNSA Global Threat Reduction Initiative - Highly
Enriched Uranium (EDATS: SECY-2009-0319)

Borchardt
Virgilio
Mallett
Ash
Ordaz
Burns/Gray
Miller, FSME
Weber, NMSS
Leeds, NRR
Burns, OGC
Bagley, OEDO

DATE: 06/25/09

ASSIGNED TO:

CONTACT:

NSIR

Zimmerman

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

Coordinate response with NRR.

Template: SECY-017

E-RIDS: SECY-01

EDATS

Electronic Document and Action Tracking System

EDATS Number: SECY-2009-0319

Source: SECY

General Information

Assigned To: NSIR

OEDO Due Date: 7/16/2009 5:00 PM

Other Assignees:

SECY Due Date: NONE

Subject: NNSA Global Threat Reduction Initiative - Highly Enriched Uranium

Description:

CC Routing: FSME; NMSS; NRR; OGC

ADAMS Accession Numbers - Incoming: NONE

Response/Package: NONE

Other Information

Cross Reference Number: G20090361, LTR-09-0310

Staff Initiated: NO

Related Task:

Recurring Item: NO

File Routing: EDATS

Agency Lesson Learned: NO

Roadmap Item: NO

Process Information

Action Type: Letter

Priority: Medium

Sensitivity: None

Signature Level: EDO

Urgency: NO

OEDO Concurrence: NO

OCM Concurrence: NO

OCA Concurrence: NO

Special Instructions: Coordinate response with NRR.

Document Information

Originator Name: Thomas P. D'Agostino

Date of Incoming: 6/23/2009

Originating Organization: DOE

Document Received by SECY Date: 6/25/2009

Addressee: Chairman Jaczko

Date Response Requested by Originator: NONE


Incoming Task Received: Letter

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

Date Printed: Jun 25, 2009 08:39

PAPER NUMBER: LTR-09-0310 **LOGGING DATE:** 06/24/2009
ACTION OFFICE: EDO

AUTHOR: Thomas D'Agostino
AFFILIATION: DOE
ADDRESSEE: Gregory Jaczko
SUBJECT: Expresses congratulations on the appointment as Chairman of the NRC and the NNSA Global Threat Reduction Initiative

ACTION: Appropriate
DISTRIBUTION: RF, Chairman 

LETTER DATE: 06/23/2009
ACKNOWLEDGED: No
SPECIAL HANDLING:
NOTES:
FILE LOCATION: ADAMS
DATE DUE: **DATE SIGNED:**

EDO --G20090361



Department of Energy
National Nuclear Security Administration
Washington, DC 20585

June 23, 2009

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. Gregory B. Jaczko
Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
One White Flint North
11555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852-2738

Dear Chairman Jaczko:

I would like to congratulate you on your recent appointment as the Chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. I would also like to extend my sincere gratitude for the outstanding support that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has provided over the past several years during which five highly enriched uranium (HEU) research reactors under NRC license were safely converted to use low enriched uranium (LEU) fuel at the University of Florida, Texas A&M, Purdue University, Washington State University, and Oregon State University. This is a significant step forward in achieving U.S. objectives in minimizing the civil use of HEU. With the completion of the University of Wisconsin project later this year, we will have accomplished a Presidential initiative under the North American Security and Prosperity Partnership for these conversions *two years ahead of schedule*. Your staff at the NRC has done a remarkable job supporting the conversions and should be commended for their efforts. In recognition of these efforts, we are planning a celebration to include the reactor owners and support organizations that participated in the conversion activities. This celebration is tentatively scheduled in the fall after the completion of the University of Wisconsin project, and we will keep the NRC informed as this planning progresses.

The NNSA Global Threat Reduction Initiative (GTRI) is now focusing its efforts on the U.S. high performance research reactors (HRRs), based on the April 1, 2009, Obama-Medvedev Joint Statement which referenced the shared priority of minimizing civilian use of HEU. Since 1996, GTRI has been pursuing the development and qualification of a very high density, LEU-Molybdenum fuel to enable the safe conversion of the U.S. HRRs. The GTRI Reactor Conversion program is working closely with research reactor operators to perform technical studies necessary for the conversion of facilities to LEU, while ensuring the viability and sustainability of important civilian nuclear research and development programs. An aggressive schedule for developing and fabricating the LEU fuel, reviewing the fuel qualification report and reactor conversion proposals, and



converting the reactors has been prepared to meet the commitments for the safe conversion of the NRC-regulated HPRRs by the end of 2014, namely the MIT reactor, Missouri University research reactor and the National Bureau of Standards research reactors. The GTRI program management would like to assure you that this aggressive schedule will in no manner take precedence over safety at any point in this process. However, in order to meet the schedule it is essential that all organizations involved in the conversion process dedicate adequate qualified and capable resources in a timely manner.

The GTRI program management is also developing a senior-level working group to include all stakeholders involved in the conversion process, including the NRC, the Department of Commerce, and Deans from the universities with NRC-regulated HPRRs, aimed at addressing resource requirements, program impacts programs, and sharing of any additional concerns in an open forum. I would like to invite an appropriate NRC delegate to participate in this working group to be held in late June. Furthermore, I welcome the opportunity to meet with you before this date to discuss the development of this group and to coordinate our efforts prior to the invitation of other stakeholders.

I look forward to our continued collaborative efforts to achieve the President's commitments for global HEU minimization. Once again, I would like to extend my sincere thanks for the extraordinary support your organization has provided.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. P. D'Agostino". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Thomas P. D'Agostino
Administrator