



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

December 9, 2009

The Honorable Erik Paulsen
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Paulsen:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated November 19, 2009 regarding the federal government's long-term storage plan for spent nuclear fuel. Your letter outlines concerns about the Administration's policy. As an independent commission created by Congress, the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is not an Executive Branch Office. I understand that the U. S. Department of Energy (DOE) is developing a response to your letter.

The NRC's primary role with regard to Yucca Mountain, under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act, is to review and make a licensing decision on DOE's application for a high-level radioactive waste repository. If you or your staff have questions about the NRC's regulatory role, please feel free to contact me at 301-415-1776.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Schmidt

Rebecca L. Schmidt
Office of Congressional Affairs