

From: Kotra, Janet
Sent: Wednesday, January 13, 2010 1:51 PM
To: Walker, Dwight
Subject: FW: Your letter to NRC Chairman Jaczko on nuclear waste disposal
Attachments: GAO.10.48report.pdf; G20090718.pdf; ML0935800800.pdf

Dwight, this is what I sent upstairs--the ticket, the incoming and my email to Ms. Willoughby. Thank you for your help. janet Kotra

From: Kotra, Janet
Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2010 2:44 PM
To: Valencia, Jennifer; Greenwood, Carol
Subject: FW: Your letter to NRC Chairman Jaczko on nuclear waste disposal

Ladies, I need help closing this ticket. It was assigned to me for "appropriate action" which King and I decided was an email from me to the author of the incoming. I sent the email reply (below). Now, I need to change the status of the incoming package, which is already in ADAMS, so that it can be publicly released, and enter my email into ADAMS as part of the package. Please advise. thanks, janet

From: Kotra, Janet
Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2010 1:36 PM
To: 'willos@rpi.edu'
Subject: Your letter to NRC Chairman Jaczko on nuclear waste disposal

Dear Ms. Willoughby,

I was asked to reply to your recent letter to Chairman Jaczko. I appreciate your interest in a sound national policy for managing used nuclear fuel and thank you for sending your information packet. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is an independent regulatory agency whose primary mission is to protect public health and safety, the common defense and security, and the environment, in the use of nuclear materials, including the nation's spent nuclear fuel. While NRC's role does include serving as an independent decision maker on safety matters under its jurisdiction, the NRC does not set national policy.

As you noted in your information packet, the nation's current policy for managing high-level radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel was established by the U.S. Congress under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, as amended. Pursuant to this law, in June 2008, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) submitted a license application to NRC for approval to build a geologic repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada. The NRC staff is conducting a formal technical review of DOE's application. We expect to document the results of this review and make them available to the public in a Safety Evaluation Report. Chairman Jaczko and his fellow Commissioners will not make a decision to grant or deny DOE authorization to build a repository until the NRC staff's independent review is complete and a full and impartial public hearing has been conducted.

As you may know, in March 2009, the Secretary of Energy testified before the Congress that the administration intends to end the Yucca Mountain repository program. Since then, the administration has announced plans to study alternatives to geologic disposal at Yucca Mountain before deciding on a future nuclear waste management strategy. The administration

indicated that this strategy could include reprocessing or other waste management techniques. In November 2009, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) issued a report, "Nuclear Waste Management: Key Attributes, Challenges, and Costs of the Yucca Mountain Repository and Two Potential Alternatives," which you may find of interest. Attached to this message is an electronic copy of the GAO's report.

I wish you the best in your engineering studies. Please feel free to contact me at Janet.Kotra@nrc.gov if you have additional questions about NRC's high-level waste (HLW) regulatory program.

Sincerely,

Janet P. Kotra

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E-mail Properties

Mail Envelope Properties (94A2A4408AC65F42AC084527534CF41603DAA7B539)

Subject: FW: Your letter to NRC Chairman Jaczko on nuclear waste disposal
Sent Date: 1/13/2010 1:50:36 PM
Received Date: 1/13/2010 1:50:36 PM
From: Kotra, Janet

Created By: Janet.Kotra@nrc.gov

Recipients:
Dwight.Walker@nrc.gov (Walker, Dwight)
Tracking Status: None

Post Office:
HQCLSTR01.nrc.gov

Files	Size	Date & Time
MESSAGE	3137970	1/13/2010
GAO.10.48report.pdf	1868806	
image001.png	4409	
G20090718.pdf	8069	
ML0935800800.pdf	1236621	

Options

Expiration Date:

Priority: olImportanceNormal

ReplyRequested: False

Return Notification: False

Sensitivity: olNormal

Recipients received: