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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
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Dr. Lewis Cuthbert
Alliance for a Clean Environment
1189 Foxview Road
Pottstown, PA 19465

Dr. Cuthbert;

Thank you for your letter to Chairman Jaczko regarding the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's request for the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) to examine cancer risk in populations living near U.S. nuclear facilities.

The NRC has asked the Academy to do this work in order to provide, in a transparent manner, updated scientific information on cancer diagnosis and mortality near U.S. nuclear power facilities. The NAS work will provide up-to-date information to follow up on the 1990 National Cancer Institute report that concluded cancer mortality rates are not elevated in populations near U.S. nuclear power plants.

The NAS study process is independent, transparent, objective, and technically rigorous, ensuring that the new study will be comprehensive and accurate. The NRC will provide information to the NAS, but the Academy has full autonomy in deciding how best to meet the NRC's request. The NAS will hold several public meetings in the project's first phase, allowing the public and interest groups to provide input and information on conducting the study. Your letter has been forwarded to the NAS for their consideration during the study's first phase.

Please feel free to contact me at scott.burnell@nrc.gov if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Scott Burnell
Public Affairs Officer

CC: NRC Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
NAS Nuclear and Radiation Studies Board