

**Powell, Amy**

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**From:** Bill Brach  
**Sent:** Friday, October 17, 2008 3:32 PM  
**To:** Michael Weber; Catherine Haney  
**Cc:** Chris Bajwa; Amy Powell; Rebecca Schmidt; Lisa Culp; Albert Wong; Bella Khodorkovsky; Bernard White; Christopher Regan; Christopher Staab; David Pstrak; Earl Easton; Elise Heumann; Eric Benner; Gordon Bjorkman; Kimberly Gruss; Larry Campbell; Meena Khanna; Michael Waters; Nader Mamish; Raymond Lorson  
**Subject:** Meeting with Staff of Senators Reid and Ensign  
**Attachments:** Oct 17 Meeting with Senator Ensign and Reid Staff.doc

Mike/Cathy,

Earl Easton and Chris Bajwa had a very positive meeting this morning with the staff of Senators Reid and Ensign. A brief summary of the meeting and their discussion on spent fuel transport safety is attached. We very much appreciate the support provided by Amy Powell.

Bill

AI 34

#### Meeting with Senator Ensign and Reid's staffs on Spent Fuel Transportation

On October 17, 2008, SFST staff briefed staff members from Senator Reid and Ensign's offices on the performance of spent fuel transportation packages in long duration fully engulfing fires. The briefing was in response to the NRC's offer to provide additional information to Senator Ensign's staff following a hearing on the safety and security of spent fuel transportation before the Senate Committee on Science, Commerce and Transportation on September 24, 2008. Briefing topics included the NRC's regulatory requirements for package approval (focusing on the thermal test), studies of how spent fuel casks would be projected to perform in real life accidents, and operational controls adopted by the rail industry to reduce the probability of spent fuel casks being involved in long duration full engulfing fires. The staff members showed particular interest in rail accidents that occurred in Howard Street Tunnel in Baltimore, Maryland in 2001 and the Summit Tunnel fire that occurred in the United Kingdom in 1984. There were no follow-up actions.