

February 15, 2011

Isaac Winograd, Ph.D.
Sustainable Fuel Cycle Task Force Science Panel
1718 M Street N.W., Suite 237
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Dr. Winograd:

This letter is in response to your letter of October 14, 2010, in which you expressed concerns about execution of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) high-level waste program.

I want to assure you that the approach the NRC is taking is consistent with the terms of the Continuing Resolution, the Commission's Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 budget guidance, the general principles of appropriations law, and past NRC practice.

The staff is beginning to transition to an orderly close-out of the high-level waste program. This action was taken only after discussions with the Commission and senior staff, and after the NRC General Counsel reviewed the budget guidance and determined that the agency's approach was consistent with appropriations law. To provide you with further assurances about the specific actions we have taken, orderly closure of this program entails knowledge capture and management to ensure that the staff's technical work to date is preserved. This comprehensive effort is expected to take about a year and include documenting the staff's review and other knowledge concerning the program by means such as comprehensive technical reports and videotaped interviews of technical staff. By thoroughly documenting the staff's technical review and preserving it as appropriate for publication and public use, the agency will be able to respond to direction from the Congress or the Courts.

Thank you again for your correspondence. I appreciate your interest in the Nation's high-level waste program.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Gregory B. Jaczko

Identical letter sent to:

Isaac Winograd, Ph.D.
Sustainable Fuel Cycle Task Force Science Panel
1718 M Street N.W., Suite 237
Washington, D.C. 20036

Wendell Weart, Ph.D.
Sustainable Fuel Cycle Task Force Science Panel
1718 M Street N.W., Suite 237
Washington, D.C. 20036

Eugene H. Roseboom, Jr., Ph.D.
Sustainable Fuel Cycle Task Force Science Panel
1718 M Street N.W., Suite 237
Washington, D.C. 20036

Charles Fairhurst, Ph.D.
Sustainable Fuel Cycle Task Force Science Panel
1718 M Street N.W., Suite 237
Washington, D.C. 20036

D. Warner North, Ph.D.
Sustainable Fuel Cycle Task Force Science Panel
1718 M Street N.W. Suite 237
Washington, D.C., 20036