

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: 04/08/11

EDO CONTROL: G20110200  
DOC DT: 03/15/11  
FINAL REPLY:

Senator Richard Blumenthal

TO:

Chairman Jaczko

FOR SIGNATURE OF :

\*\* PRI \*\*

CRC NO: 11-0143

Chairman Jaczko

DESC:

NRC's Oversight of Nuclear Power Plants in the  
United States (EDATS: SECY-2011-0158)

ROUTING:

Borchardt  
Weber  
Virgilio  
Ash  
Muessle  
OGC/GC  
Leeds, NRR  
Wiggins, NSIR  
Burns, OGC  
Schmidt, OCA

DATE: 03/23/11

ASSIGNED TO:

EDO

CONTACT:

Rihm

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

Please prepare response in accordance with OEDO  
Notice 2009-0441-02 (ML093290179). NRR and NSIR to  
provide input to Roger Rihm, OEDO, if required.  
Roger will coordinate response with OGC and OCA.

*Implate: SECY-017*

*E-Recs: SECY-07*

**EDATS Number:** SECY-2011-0158**Source:** SECY**General Information****Assigned To:** OEDO**OEDO Due Date:** 4/8/2011 11:00 PM**Other Assignees:****SECY Due Date:** 4/12/2011 11:00 PM**Subject:** NRC's Oversight of Nuclear Power Plants in the United States**Description:****CC Routing:** NRR; NSIR; OGC; OCA**ADAMS Accession Numbers - Incoming:** NONE**Response/Package:** NONE**Other Information****Cross Reference Number:** G20110200, LTR-11-0143**Staff Initiated:** NO**Related Task:****Recurring Item:** NO**File Routing:** EDATS**Agency Lesson Learned:** NO**OEDO Monthly Report Item:** NO**Process Information****Action Type:** Letter**Priority:** Medium**Sensitivity:** None**Signature Level:** Chairman Jaczko**Urgency:** NO**Approval Level:** No Approval Required**OEDO Concurrence:** YES**OEDM Concurrence:** NO**OCA Concurrence:** NO**Special Instructions:** Please prepare response in accordance with OEDO Notice 2009-0441-02 (ML093290179). NRR and NSIR to provide input to Roger Rihm, OEDO, if required. Roger will coordinate response with OGC and OCA.**Document Information****Originator Name:** Senator Richard Blumenthal**Date of Incoming:** 3/15/2011**Originating Organization:** Congress**Document Received by SECY Date:** 3/23/2011**Addressee:** Chairman Jaczko**Date Response Requested by Originator:** NONE**Incoming Task Received:** Letter

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

*Date Printed: Mar 23, 2011 11:22*

---

**PAPER NUMBER:** LTR-11-0143 **LOGGING DATE:** 03/22/2011  
**ACTION OFFICE:** EDO

**AUTHOR:** SEN Richard Blumenthal  
**AFFILIATION:** CONG  
**ADDRESSEE:** CHRM Gregory Jaczko  
**SUBJECT:** Concerns NRC's oversight of nuclear power plants in the United States

**ACTION:** Signature of Chairman  
**DISTRIBUTION:** OCA to Ack, RF

**LETTER DATE:** 03/15/2011  
**ACKNOWLEDGED:** No  
**SPECIAL HANDLING:**

**NOTES:**

**FILE LOCATION:** ADAMS

**DATE DUE:** 04/12/2011 **DATE SIGNED:**

EDO --G20110200

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 15, 2011

The Honorable Gregory B. Jaczko  
Chairman  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Mail Stop O-16G4  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Dear Chairman Jaczko:

I am writing to request information regarding the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) oversight of nuclear power plants in the United States.

The ongoing crisis at Japan's Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant has raised concerns – expressed to me by Connecticut residents – about whether a similar problem could occur in the United States. Like all Americans, I express my condolences and support for the Japanese victims and their families. This tragic occurrence raises difficult questions and concerns that should be addressed as soon as possible.

I would appreciate your responses to the following questions, which I believe will help Members of Congress and the public have a better understanding of the current environment in which these plants are operating:

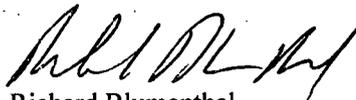
- What insights has the NRC gained and what lessons have been learned from the tragic experience in Japan that can be applied to the safe operation of American nuclear plants?
- The German government recently announced that it would temporarily suspend operations at nuclear plants constructed before 1980, pending a safety review. Has the NRC contemplated steps along the same lines for any American nuclear plants?
- Do American nuclear facilities utilize any particular design characteristics or operational methods that make a Fukushima Daiichi-like crisis less likely to occur?
- What design or construction features, or practices and policies in connection with crisis response, could be implemented to better protect health and safety in the event of a similar emergency occurring here?

I will supplement these questions with others as more becomes known about the unfolding events in Japan.

While nuclear power has an important role in America's energy resource mix, we must ensure the safety and security of all our nuclear power facilities, especially for people who work and live in surrounding areas.

Thank you for your attention to this request and for your continuing work to ensure that America's nuclear industry operates in a safe and reliable manner.

Sincerely,



Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senate