EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: 05/04/11 EDO CONTROL: G20110267
DOC DT: 03/31/11
FINAL REPLY:

Senator Richard Blumenthal

TO:

Chairman Jaczko

FOR SIGNATURE OF : ** PRI ** CRC NO: 11-0205

Chairman Jaczko

DESC:

Assessment of the Safety and Viability of America's On-Site Nuclear Waste Storage Facilities (EDATS: SECY-2011-0228)

ROUTING:

Borchardt
Weber
Virgilio
Ash
Muessle
OGC/GC
Haney, NMSS
Scott, FSME
Burns, OGC
Schmidt, OCA

DATE: 04/15/11

ASSIGNED TO: CONTACT:

EDO Rihm

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

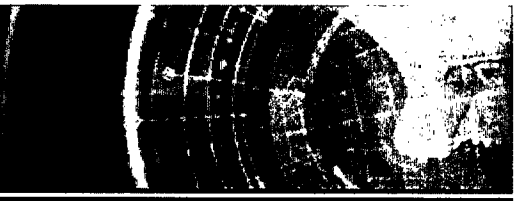
Please prepare response in accordance with OEDO Notice 2009-0441-02 (ML093290179). NMSS and FSME to provide input to Roger Rihm, OEDO, if required. Roger Rihm to coordinate response with OGC and OCA.

Template: SECY-017

E-RIDS: SECY-01

EDATS

Electronic Document and Action Tracking System



EDATS Number: SECY-2011-0228 **Source:** SECY

General Information

Assigned To: OEDO
OEDO Due Date: 5/4/2011 11:00 PM
Other Assignees:
SECY Due Date: 5/6/2011 11:00 PM
Subject: Assessment of the Safety and Viability of America's On-Site Nuclear Waste Storage Facilities
Description:

CC Routing: NMSS; FSME; OGC; OCA
ADAMS Accession Numbers - Incoming: NONE
Response/Package: NONE

Other Information

Cross Reference Number: G20110267, LTR-11-0205
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
OCM Concurrence: NO
OCA Concurrence: NO
Special Instructions: Please prepare response in accordance with OEDO Notice 2009-0441-02 (ML093290179). NMSS and FSME to provide input to Roger Rihm, OEDO, if required. Roger Rihm will coordinate response with OGC and OCA.

Document Information

Originator Name: Senator Richard Blumenthal
Date of Incoming: 3/31/2011
Originating Organization: Congress
Document Received by SECY Date: 4/15/2011
Addressee: Chairman Jaczko
Date Response Requested by Originator: NONE
Incoming Task Received: Letter

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

Date Printed: Apr 14, 2011 16:50

PAPER NUMBER:	LTR-11-0205	**LOGGING DATE:**	04/11/2011
ACTION OFFICE:	EDO		
AUTHOR:	SEN Richard Blumenthal		
AFFILIATION:	CONG		
ADDRESSEE:	Gregory Jaczko		
SUBJECT:	Assessment of the safety and viability of U.S. on-site nuclear waste storage facilities		
ACTION:	Signature of Chairman		
DISTRIBUTION:	RF, OCA to Ack		
LETTER DATE:	03/31/2011		
ACKNOWLEDGED	No		
SPECIAL HANDLING:	Chairman Correspondence		
NOTES:			
FILE LOCATION:	ADAMS		
DATE DUE:	05/06/2011	**DATE SIGNED:**	

RICHARD BLUMENTHAL
CONNECTICUT

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 31, 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 ask for your assessment of the safety and viability of America's on-site nuclear waste storage facilities.

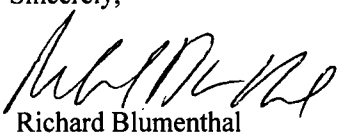
As you know, 1019 spent fuel assemblies are currently stored in 43 dry storage casks at the former Connecticut Yankee nuclear site in Haddam Neck, CT. Several hundred fuel assemblies are also stored in 19 dry storage casks at Connecticut's Millstone Power Station, and nearly two thousand additional spent fuel assemblies are stored in the facility's spent fuel pool. The costs associated with this storage are considerable; Connecticut's utility ratepayers spend millions of dollars each year on waste storage—$8 million for the storage of approximately 412 tons at Haddam Neck alone.

As Congress awaits the preliminary recommendations of the President's Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future, the American public and people of Connecticut deserve to have the answers to several serious questions relating to the storage of our nuclear waste:

- Has the NRC determined how long nuclear waste can safely be stored at reactor sites until a long-term storage solution is identified?
- Does the NRC have data about how much spent nuclear fuel is currently stored at various sites across the United States, in both dry storage and spent fuel pools? How often is this data updated?
- What steps has the NRC taken to ensure that these on-site storage facilities, such as the one located in Haddam Neck, are properly maintained and secured against natural disasters or man-made catastrophes, including terrorist attacks?

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