

May 23, 2011

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Cantwell:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to your letter of March 30, 2011, which posed a number of questions regarding the potential impacts of recent events in Japan on the citizens of the State of Washington. Detailed responses to those questions are provided in an enclosure to this letter.

I appreciate your kind words commending the efforts of the NRC staff in responding to recent events. While the NRC provides assistance to our colleagues in Japan, I want to assure you that our domestic responsibilities have not been compromised. We continue to make oversight of U.S. licensees our priority in order to protect public health and safety. Through the task force that the Commission recently established, the agency is undertaking a near-term evaluation of the relevance to the U.S. nuclear reactor fleet of recent events in Japan, while continuing to gather the information necessary to take a systematic and methodical look at those events in Japan and potential lessons for us. Based on these efforts, we will take all appropriate actions to ensure the continued safety of the American public.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Gregory B Jaczko

Enclosure: As stated