

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: 07/22/11

EDO CONTROL: G20110496

DOC DT: 06/23/11

FINAL REPLY:

Representative Jon Runyan

TO:

Chairman Jaczko

FOR SIGNATURE OF :

\*\* GRN \*\*

CRC NO: 11-0386

Chairman Jaczko

DESC:

ROUTING:

June 2011 GAO Report Entitled, "Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Oversight of Underground Piping Systems Commensurate with Risk, but Proactive Measures Could Help Address Future Leaks" (EDATS: SECY-2011-0390)

Borchardt  
Weber  
Virgilio  
Ash  
Mamish  
OGC/GC  
Leeds, NRR  
Burns, OGC  
Schmidt, OCA

DATE: 07/06/11

ASSIGNED TO:

CONTACT:

EDO

Rihm

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

Ref. LTR-11-0365. Please prepare response in accordance with OEDO Notice 2009-0441-02 (ML093290179). NRR to provide input to Roger Rihm, OEDO, if required. Roger will coordinate with OGC and OCA.

*Implate : EDO-001*

*E-Reds : EDO-01*

EDATS Number: SECY-2011-0390

Source: SECY

**General Information****Assigned To:** OEDO**OEDO Due Date:** 7/22/2011 11:00 PM**Other Assignees:****SECY Due Date:** 7/26/2011 11:00 PM**Subject:** June 2011 GAO Report entitled, "Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Oversight of Underground Piping Systems Commensurate with Risk, but Proactive Measures Could Help Address Future Leaks"**Description:****CC Routing:** NRR; OGC; OCA**ADAMS Accession Numbers - Incoming:** NONE**Response/Package:** NONE**Other Information****Cross Reference Number:** G20110496, LTR-11-0386**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:** YES**Special Instructions:** Please prepare response in accordance with OEDO Notice 2009-0441-02 (ML093290179). NRR to provide input to Roger Rihm, OEDO, if required. Roger will coordinate response with OGC and OCA.**Document Information****Originator Name:** Representative Jon Runyan**Date of Incoming:** 6/23/2011**Originating Organization:** Congress**Document Received by SECY Date:** 7/6/2011**Addressee:** Chairman Jaczko**Date Response Requested by Originator:** NONE**Incoming Task Received:** Letter

**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET**

*Date Printed: Jul 05, 2011 11:13*

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**PAPER NUMBER:** LTR-11-0386 **LOGGING DATE:** 07/01/2011  
**ACTION OFFICE:** EDO

**AUTHOR:** REP Jon Runyan  
**AFFILIATION:** CONG  
**ADDRESSEE:** CHRM Gregory Jaczko  
**SUBJECT:** Concerns the June 2011 GAO report entitled NRC Oversight of Underground Piping Systems  
Commensurate with Risk, but Proactive Measures Could Help Address Future Leaks

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

**LETTER DATE:** 06/23/2011  
**ACKNOWLEDGED** No  
**SPECIAL HANDLING:** Commission Correspondence  
Ref: LTR-11-0365 that was also assigned as Commission Correspondence.

**NOTES:**  
**FILE LOCATION:** ADAMS

**DATE DUE:** 07/26/2011 **DATE SIGNED:**

EDO --G20110496

JON RUNYAN

3RD DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

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CHAIRMAN

SUBCOMMITTEE ON DISABILITY ASSISTANCE  
AND MEMORIAL AFFAIRS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-3003

June 23, 2011

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OCEANS AND INSULAR AFFAIRS

Mr. Gregory B. Jaczko  
Chairman  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Dear Chairman Jaczko,

I write to express my concern and raise some questions in regards to the June 2011 Government Accountability Office (GAO) report entitled, *Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Oversight of Underground Piping Systems Commensurate with Risk, but Proactive Measures Could Help Address Future Leaks*. This report included three case studies including one on the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Facility of Lacey Township, which lies in my congressional district.

The GAO report contains several findings and recommendations. Including:

- Periodically evaluate the extent to which the industry's voluntary Groundwater Protection Initiative will result in prompt detection of leaks and, based upon these evaluations, determine whether the agency should expand its groundwater monitoring requirements.
- Stay abreast of ongoing industry research to develop technologies for structural integrity tests and, when they become feasible, analyze costs to licensees of implementing these tests compared with the likely benefits to public health and safety. Based on this analysis, NRC should determine whether it should expand licensees' inspection requirements to include structural integrity tests for safety-related underground piping.

It is my understanding that the NRC has responded to the GAO by agreeing with the GAO recommendations and has begun to take "relevant actions." In addition to the recommendations, the GAO found that "stakeholders said that NRC should require licensees to provide leak information in a more timely fashion and should make that information more accessible to the public." My questions for you are as follows:

- *Please explain specifically these "relevant actions" you are taking to conform to GAO recommendations and how these new actions will prevent a future tritium leak from the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station.*

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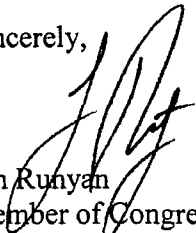
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- *Please explain exactly how the NRC is working to reduce the lag time in leak reporting, and specifically how these new actions will improve the timely leak reporting at Oyster Creek.*

I look forward to your prompt response and thank you for your time. Your staff may contact Jeff Brabant of my staff at (202) 255-4765 or [Jeff.Brabant@mail.house.gov](mailto:Jeff.Brabant@mail.house.gov) if we can be of additional assistance.

Sincerely,



Jon Runyan  
Member of Congress

JR/jb