

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: / /

EDO CONTROL: G20110514
DOC DT: 06/28/11
FINAL REPLY:

Kathryn J. Jackson
Westinghouse

TO:

Chairman Jaczko

FOR SIGNATURE OF :

** GRN **

CRC NO: 11-0391

DESC:

Development of Licensing Basis for Recycling
Facilities (EDATS: SECY-2011-0415)

ROUTING:

Borchardt
Weber
Virgilio
Ash
Mamish
OGC/GC
Johnson, NRO
Leeds, NRR
Carpenter, FSME
Burns, OGC
Frazier, OEDO

DATE: 07/19/11

ASSIGNED TO:

NMSS

CONTACT:

Haney

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

For Appropriate Action. If a response is
determined, please reference appropriate tasking
numbers on concurrence page and provide copy to
OEDO and SECY.

Template: SECY-017

E-RIDS: SECY-01

EDATS

Electronic Document and Action Tracking System

EDATS Number: SECY-2011-0415

Source: SECY

General Information

Assigned To: NMSS

OEDO Due Date: NONE

Other Assignees:

SECY Due Date: NONE

Subject: Development of Licensing Basis for Recycling Facilities

Description:

CC Routing: NRO; NRR; FSME; OGC

ADAMS Accession Numbers - Incoming: NONE

Response/Package: NONE

Other Information

Cross Reference Number: G20110514, LTR-11-0391

Staff Initiated: NO

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Recurring Item: NO

File Routing: EDATS

Agency Lesson Learned: NO

OEDO Monthly Report Item: NO

Process Information

Action Type: Appropriate Action

Priority: Medium

Signature Level: No Signature Required

Sensitivity: None

Approval Level: No Approval Required

Urgency: NO

OEDO Concurrence: NO

OCM Concurrence: NO

OCA Concurrence: NO

Special Instructions: For Appropriate Action. If a response is determined, please reference appropriate tasking numbers on concurrence page and provide copy to OEDO and SECY.

Document Information

Originator Name: Kathryn J. Jackson

Date of Incoming: 6/28/2011

Originating Organization: Westinghouse

Document Received by SECY Date: 7/18/2011

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 17:10

PAPER NUMBER: LTR-11-0391 **LOGGING DATE:** 07/05/2011
ACTION OFFICE: EDO

AUTHOR: Kathryn Jackson
AFFILIATION: WEC
ADDRESSEE: Gregory Jaczko
SUBJECT: Westinghouse offers support to the Comm's work to develop a comprehensive, publicly acceptable licensing basis for recycling facilities

ACTION: Appropriate
DISTRIBUTION: RF

LETTER DATE: 06/28/2011
ACKNOWLEDGED: No
SPECIAL HANDLING:

NOTES:
FILE LOCATION: ADAMS

DATE DUE: **DATE SIGNED:**

EDO --G20110514



Kathryn J. Jackson, Ph.D.
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Chief Technology Officer
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June 28, 2011

The Honorable Gregory Jaczko
Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Chairman Jaczko:

Westinghouse Electric Company, as the world's largest manufacturer of nuclear fuel, has a demonstrated commitment to the health and welfare of the general public, the workers in the nuclear industry, and the environment while still providing cost effective services to the nuclear industry. Our long history in the nuclear industry has taught us that the industry can thrive when the rules of the game are well defined and arrived at with due deliberation, and application of science and consultation with industry is conducted in a transparent, public manner. As a previous contractor at DOE sites such as West Valley, Hanford, and Savannah River, the Westinghouse organization understands what it takes to successfully design and operate highly radioactive facilities and manage complex projects such as those required for recycling used nuclear fuel in a publicly acceptable and economic manner.

While used fuel recycling is not yet economically attractive as compared to direct disposal of used fuel, this may not always be the case. The future is likely to see increases in uranium costs and a desire on the part of the public to reduce the long term toxicity footprint of used fuel. To achieve this will require the recycling of used nuclear fuel. While the need for recycling is still in the distant future, action now by the Commission will help guide the research and development for interim and future recycling options. Since research in this area is both time consuming and very expensive, it will be invaluable to investigators to understand early, the regulatory constraints that any future recycling plant will have to meet. This regulatory knowledge will help direct the research and development work, prevent unnecessary government spending on decades old non-optimized, non-economic recycling technologies as a near term solution and allow industry to accurately evaluate the business and economic aspects of recycling to arrive at comprehensive fuel cycle options that embody recycling as just one element of an environmentally sustainable, economically feasible, and publicly acceptable solution to managing the nation's used fuel inventory.

Since the economic need for recycling is not likely to be in the near future and long term interim dry storage can safely accommodate the current and newly generated used nuclear fuel for the foreseeable future, the Commission has the time needed and the ability to deliberatively develop revised rules for recycling that meet the needs of the public, government and industry in an optimum manner. Westinghouse is eager to support the Commission's work to develop a comprehensive, publicly acceptable licensing basis for recycling facilities such as the one step licensing approach similar to that developed for commercial power reactors and Westinghouse will be happy to provide assistance to the NRC in this endeavor at any time.

Sincerely,

cc:

George Apostolakis

William R. Borchardt

Michael R. Johnson

Eric J. Leeds

William D. Magwood IV

William C. Ostendorff

Brian W. Sheron

Kristine L. Svinicki