

July 29, 2011

The Honorable Darrell Issa
Chairman, Committee on Oversight and
Government Reform
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing in response to your July 15, 2011, letter in which you requested information related to the submittal of the ***Recommendations for Enhancing Reactor Safety in the 21st Century: The Near-Term Task Force Review of Insights from the Fukushima Dai-ichi Accident*** (Task Force Report) to the Commission and ultimately its public release. Documents responsive to your request are included herein. Please note that a number of the documents in this submittal have not been released to the public and have been marked “not for public disclosure.” I respectfully ask that the Committee honor these markings.

By statute, the Chairman is the principal executive officer of the Commission and the Executive Director for Operations (EDO) reports, for all matters, to the Chairman. Moreover, it is also the Chairman’s responsibility to ensure that the EDO and the staff are responsive to the requirements of the Commission. In this case, the Commission unanimously established a senior level agency task force to make recommendations to the Commission for its policy direction. In doing so, the Commission directed that the Task Force Report would come to the Commission as a Notation Vote Paper.

Instead, the Task Force Report was originally transmitted to the Commission as an attachment to a separate voting paper, rather than the Report itself being the item upon which the Commission would vote. Because this was inconsistent with the Commission’s direction, it was my responsibility to correct this error. I personally spoke with each of my Commission colleagues to explain the matter, and none of my colleagues questioned my actions or expressed concerns to me. I did not hear that my colleagues had concerns until after receiving your letter three days later when Commissioners’ staff raised this issue with my staff.

I understand and appreciate your interest in ensuring that all employees at the NRC follow their statutory responsibilities and I can assure you that I share that interest. I am certain that you also share my interest in maintaining the agency’s focus on protecting public health and safety, and I commit to you that I will continue to lead this agency with that single-minded focus.

As I have previously indicated, I remain available to speak with you anytime so please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or concerns about the management and operations of the agency.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Gregory B. Jaczko

Enclosure: As stated

cc: Representative Elijah E. Cummings