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Congress of the United States House of Representatives

October 21, 2010

Commissioner Kristine Svinicki
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mail Stop O-16G4
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Dear Commissioner Svinicki:

I understand that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has unilaterally decided to halt all work on the review of the Department of Energy's license application for Yucca Mountain based on President Obama's Fiscal Year 2011 budget proposal.

As you know, Volume III of the Yucca Mountain Safety Evaluation Report was scheduled to be released in November. However, it has been reported that Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has been instructed to stop work and indefinitely shelve this document.

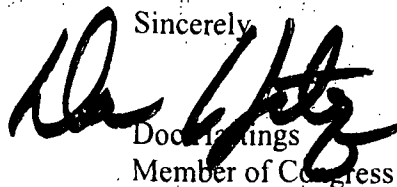
This action runs directly counter to President Obama's January 21, 2009, memorandum for executive departments and agencies on transparency and open government noting that "information maintained by the federal government is a national asset" and that his Administration "will take appropriate action, consistent with law and policy, to disclose information rapidly in forms that the public can readily find and use."

Recognizing that Volume III was scheduled to be released next month, it is reasonable to assume that the vast majority of work has been completed. I write to request a status report on Volume III of the Yucca Mountain Safety Evaluation Report as well as a copy of all data used to compile the Report. Additionally, if the Report will not be released in November, I request that a copy of the latest draft be delivered to my office immediately.

This work has been performed at the direction of Congress as required under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act. At a minimum, Members of Congress and the American public deserve to have the benefit of this information.

A prompt and substantive reply to this request would be appreciated.

Sincerely,


Doc Hastings
Member of Congress

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