

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: 02/29/12 EDO CONTROL: G20120065  
DOC DT: 01/30/12  
FINAL REPLY:

Senator James E. Risch

TO:

Schmidt, OCA

FOR SIGNATURE OF : \*\* GRN \*\* CRC NO: 12-0043

Borchardt, EDO

DESC:

ROUTING:

Testing of Water Steam per PRM 50-76 -  
Clarification of Information Received in 12/6/11  
Response (EDATS: SECY-2012-0060)

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

DATE: 02/02/12

ASSIGNED TO: CONTACT:  
EDO Rihm

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

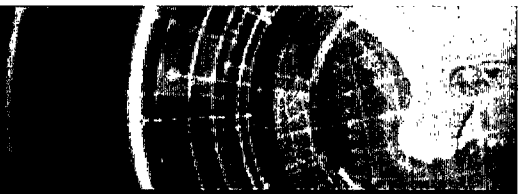
Ref. G20110873. Please prepare response in  
accordance with OEDO Procedure 0240 (ML093290179).  
RES and NRR to provide input to Roger Rihm, OEDO,  
if required. Roger Rihm will coordinate response  
with OGC and OCA.

Template: SECY-017

E-RIDS: SECY-01

# EDATS

Electronic Document and Action Tracking System



**EDATS Number:** SECY-2012-0060

**Source:** SECY

## General Information

**Assigned To:** OEDO

**OEDO Due Date:** 2/29/2012 11:00 PM

**Other Assignees:**

**SECY Due Date:** 3/2/2012 11:00 PM

**Subject:** Testing of Water Steam per PRM 50-76 - Clarification of Information Received in 12/6/11 Response

**Description:**

**CC Routing:** RES; NRR; OGC; OCA

**ADAMS Accession Numbers - Incoming:** NONE

**Response/Package:** NONE

## Other Information

**Cross Reference Number:** G20120065, LTR-12-0043

**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:** EDO

**Urgency:** NO

**Approval Level:** No Approval Required

**OEDO Concurrence:** NO

**OCM Concurrence:** NO

**OCA Concurrence:** NO

**Special Instructions:** Please prepare response in accordance with OEDO Procedure 0240 (ML093290179). RES and NRR to provide input to Roger Rihm, OEDO, if required. Roger Rihm will coordinate response with OGC and OCA. Ref. G20110873.

## Document Information

**Originator Name:** Senator James E. Risch

**Date of Incoming:** 1/30/2012

**Originating Organization:** Congress

**Document Received by SECY Date:** 2/2/2012

**Addressee:** Rebecca Schmidt, OCA

**Date Response Requested by Originator:** NONE

**Incoming Task Received:** Letter

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

Date Printed: Feb 02, 2012 12:26

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**PAPER NUMBER:** LTR-12-0043 **LOGGING DATE:** 02/01/2012  
**ACTION OFFICE:** EDO

**AUTHOR:** SEN James Risch  
**AFFILIATION:** CONG  
**ADDRESSEE:** Rebecca Schmidt  
**SUBJECT:** Clarification of information received in 12/6/2011 response addressing concerns regarding the testing of water steam per PRM 50-76

**ACTION:** Signature of EDO  
**DISTRIBUTION:** OCA to Ack

**LETTER DATE:** 01/30/2012

**ACKNOWLEDGED:** No

**SPECIAL HANDLING:**

**NOTES:**

**FILE LOCATION:** ADAMS

**DATE DUE:** 03/02/2012 **DATE SIGNED:**

**JAMES E. RISCH**  
IDAHO

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**United States Senate**

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 30, 2012

Ms. Rebecca Schmidt  
Director of Congressional Affairs  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Dear Ms. Schmidt,

Enclosed is information I received from Mr. Robert Leyse regarding clarification of information in your December 6th response letter.

I appreciate your review of this matter. Please provide me with any relevant information so I may respond to Mr. Robert Leyse. You may send your letter to Kari Emond in my Twin Falls office at the address listed below.

If you have any questions, please contact Kari at 208-734-6780.

Thank you for your help in this matter.

Very Truly Yours,



James E. Risch  
United States Senator

JER/kme  
Enclosure

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(208) 523-6541

Robert H. Leyse  
P. O. Box 2850  
222 Elkhorn Road  
Sun Valley, ID 83353

January 19, 2012

The Honorable James E. Risch  
United States Senator  
1411 Falls Avenue E Suite 2  
Twin Falls, ID 83301

Dear Senator Risch:

Nutshell: **Why is NRC reluctant to perform the testing in water-steam per PRM-50-76?**

The main appeal of my PRM-50-76, ML022240009, Docketed May 8, 2002, is that further tests with zirconium clad bundles in water-steam are necessary. NRC denied that PRM, asserting that sufficient bundle tests had been performed at NRU, Canada, via a contract with Pacific Northwest Laboratories, see ML041210109, April 24, 2004. NRC now says that none of these Canadian tests are applicable and I believe you have already asked NRC for the details of their analysis that I requested in my letter of December 19, 2011.

On December 19, 2011, I wrote you, "I must keep this inquiry brief; hence I am deferring other concerns until very early in 2012," It turns out that on December 23, 2011, I inadvertently found out that NRC has a huge program that involves corrosion testing of full-length heated bundles of zirconium alloy assemblies, see ML11031A000, page 58 of 226. I have asked NRC about this and they have told me nothing. Then, on January 5, 2011, I accidentally ran across an NRC disclosure of a closed meeting that was held on September 30, 2011, that included EPRI and DOE and that included discussions of the corrosion testing of the full-length heated bundles of zirconium alloy assemblies. Here is one reference that was released on January 3, 2012: ML113140453 - RES Staff Presentation Handouts Materials NRC-RES/EPRI Coordination Meeting Friday, September 30, 2011, (23 page(s), 12/22/2011).

ML113140453 - RES Staff Presentation Handouts Materials NRC-RES/EPRI Coordination Meeting Friday, September 30, 2011. (23 page(s), 12/22/2011)

Please have the NRC tell us about the corrosion testing of full-length heated bundles of zirconium alloy assemblies. The release on January 3, 2012, disclosed that the testing is being done at Sandia, it has 12 foreign participants, the full length assemblies are 17 by 17 arrangements of PWR fuel geometry, and **testing is being done in air only. Why is NRC reluctant to perform the Sandia tests in water-steam as called for in PRM-50-76?**

Robert H. Leyse