

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: 05/21/12

EDO CONTROL: G20120295
DOC DT: 04/26/12
FINAL REPLY:

Senator Dianne Feinstein

TO:

Chairman Jaczko

FOR SIGNATURE OF :

** PRI **

CRC NO: 12-0183

Chairman Jaczko

DESC:

ROUTING:

Assessment of the Current Conditions at the
Fukushima Dai-ichi Site (EDATS: SECY-2012-0219)

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

DATE: 05/03/12

ASSIGNED TO:

CONTACT:

EDO

Rihm

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

Please prepare response in accordance with OEDO
Notice 2009-0441-02 (ML093290179). 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-2012-0219

Source: SECY

General Information

Assigned To: OEDO

OEDO Due Date: 5/21/2012 11:00 PM

Other Assignees:

SECY Due Date: 5/23/2012 11:00 PM

Subject: Assessment of the Current Conditions at the Fukushima Dai-ichi Site

Description:

CC Routing: NRR; OGC; OCA

ADAMS Accession Numbers - Incoming: NONE

Response/Package: NONE

Other Information

Cross Reference Number: G20120295, LTR-12-0183

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: NO

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 Rihm will coordinate response with OGC and OCA.

Document Information

Originator Name: Senator Dianne Feinstein

Date of Incoming: 4/26/2012

Originating Organization: Congress

Document Received by SECY Date: 5/2/2012

Addressee: Chairman Jaczko

Date Response Requested by Originator: NONE

Incoming Task Received: Letter

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

Date Printed: May 02, 2012 09:49

PAPER NUMBER: LTR-12-0183 **LOGGING DATE:** 05/01/2012

ACTION OFFICE: EDO

AUTHOR: SEN Dianne Feinstein

AFFILIATION: CONG

ADDRESSEE: CHRM Gregory Jaczko

SUBJECT: Request for an assessmnt of the current conditions at the Fukushima Daiichi site

ACTION: Signature of Chairman

DISTRIBUTION: RF, OCA to Ack.

LETTER DATE: 04/26/2012

ACKNOWLEDGED No

SPECIAL HANDLING: Commission Correspondence

NOTES:

FILE LOCATION: ADAMS

DATE DUE: 05/23/2012

DATE SIGNED:



United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0504

<http://feinstein.senate.gov>

April 26, 2012

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

Dear Chairman Jaczko:

I am writing to request your assessment of the current conditions at the Fukushima Daiichi site. The buildings damaged in the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami are still performing critical safety functions, and I am concerned these buildings may not have the structural integrity to withstand future natural disasters. While I appreciate that Japanese regulators and industry are making herculean efforts to address safety risks, I believe it would be helpful for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to validate that the most prudent actions are being taken.

The Fukushima reactor spent fuel pools are located about 60 feet above ground. Further building damage due to ongoing seismic activity could potentially breach the spent fuel pools, prevent the adequate cooling of the spent fuel, and create a more dangerous situation.

The unit 4 reactor was shut down for refueling just before the earthquake and tsunami, and extremely hot nuclear fuel had recently been moved into the unit 4 spent fuel pool. As a result, the contents of this pool are more radioactive and produce more thermal heat than the other Fukushima spent fuel pools. The unit 4 building hosting this pool was damaged by the earthquake and tsunami, and a subsequent hydrogen explosion destroyed the roof and sections of several walls.

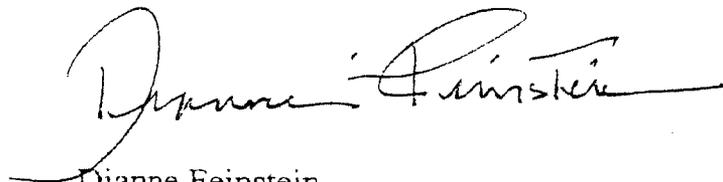
I am particularly concerned that damage caused by the earthquake, tsunami, and hydrogen explosion could threaten efforts to quickly and safely unload the unit 4 spent fuel pool. I understand that Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO) has

recognized this risk and plans to begin removing the contents of the spent fuel pools after performing additional work to reduce site contamination. I am aware that TEPCO's inspection of the unit 4 reactor building determined that structural reinforcements were not needed, but extra building supports were added as a precautionary measure. I also understand that although TEPCO determined that no significant damage occurred to the unit 4 spent fuel pool or the nuclear fuel, some building debris has fallen into the pool, which could complicate future efforts to remove fuel.

Japanese leaders face unprecedented circumstances at the Fukushima site. They have utilized their substantial expertise to address many safety concerns to date, but the situation is so uncertain that I feel the NRC's independent assessment of conditions at unit 4 would be beneficial. I would greatly appreciate it if you could describe your evaluation of the structural integrity of the damaged unit 4 building, the need for additional structural reinforcement, and the ability of the building to withstand future natural disasters. Regarding the unit 4 spent fuel pool, please assess the adequacy of the cooling system and water level monitoring equipment, and evaluate whether the unit 4 spent fuel pool could be unloaded sooner than the current timeline. Lastly, please describe any steps you would offer for consideration that could enhance ongoing efforts to stabilize the Fukushima Daiichi site.

I am pleased that NRC and Japanese officials have developed a cooperative working relationship. I thank you for your efforts to monitor and assist our Japanese friends in the wake of these tragic events, and I look forward to hearing from you regarding this important request. I believe that the NRC's technical expertise provides a valuable resource for this precarious situation. Let me know if I can provide assistance in obtaining additional information you might need to respond to this request. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me in my Washington office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dianne Feinstein". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

DF/mbn/ba