

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: / /

EDO CONTROL: G20120524  
DOC DT: 07/14/12  
FINAL REPLY:

Patricia Birnie  
GE Stockholders' Alliance

TO:

Chairman Macfarlane

FOR SIGNATURE OF :

\*\* GRN \*\*

CRC NO: 12-0342

DESC:

Congratulations and Concerns Regarding Public  
Safety (EDATS: SECY-2012-0371)

ROUTING:

Borchardt  
Weber  
Johnson  
Ash  
Mamish  
OGC/GC  
Haney, NMSS  
Tracy, NRO  
Merzke, OEDO

DATE: 07/19/12

ASSIGNED TO:

CONTACT:

NRR

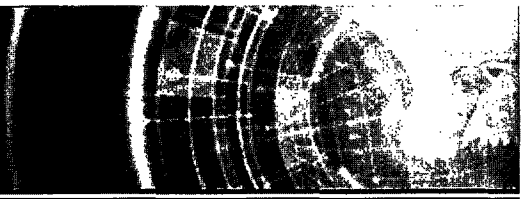
Leeds

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

Appropriate Action. If a response is determined,  
please coordinate with NMSS and NRO on the last two  
items referenced in the letter.

# EDATS

Electronic Document and Action Tracking System



**EDATS Number:** SECY-2012-0371

**Source:** SECY

## General Information

**Assigned To:** NRR

**OEDO Due Date:** NONE

**Other Assignees:**

**SECY Due Date:** NONE

**Subject:** Congratulations and Concerns Regarding Public Safety

**Description:**

**CC Routing:** NMSS; NRO

**ADAMS Accession Numbers - Incoming:**  
ML12201B400

**Response/Package:** NONE

## Other Information

**Cross Reference Number:** G20120524, LTR-12-0342

**Staff Initiated:** NO

**Related Task:**

**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

**Urgency:** NO

**Approval Level:** No Approval Required

**OEDO Concurrence:** NO

**OCM Concurrence:** NO

**OCA Concurrence:** NO

**Special Instructions:**

## Document Information

**Originator Name:** Patricia Birnie

**Date of Incoming:** 7/14/2012

**Originating Organization:** GE Stockholders' Alliance

**Document Received by SECY Date:** 7/18/2012

**Addressee:** Chairman Macfarlane

**Date Response Requested by Originator:** NONE

**Incoming Task Received:** E-mail

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

Date Printed: Jul 17, 2012 12:12

PAPER NUMBER: LTR-12-0342

LOGGING DATE: 07/17/2012

ACTION OFFICE: EDO

AUTHOR: Patricia Birnie

AFFILIATION: AZ

ADDRESSEE: CHRM Allison Macfarlane

SUBJECT: Appeal for public safety concerns and expresses congratulations on recent appointment as Chairman

ACTION: Appropriate

DISTRIBUTION: RF

LETTER DATE: 07/14/2012

ACKNOWLEDGED No

SPECIAL HANDLING:

NOTES:

FILE LOCATION: ADAMS

DATE DUE:

DATE SIGNED:

## Joosten, Sandy

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**From:** Pat Birnie [patbirnie@greenbicycle.net]  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 14, 2012 3:17 PM  
**To:** CHAIRMAN Resource  
**Subject:** Appeal for public safety concerns

GE Stockholders' Alliance  
5349 W. Bar X Street, Tucson, AZ 85713-6402

July 14, 2012

Dr. Allison Macfarlane, Chairman  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Dear Chairman Macfarlane:

Congratulations on your recent selection and confirmation as Chairman of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). We share confidence, with many others, that your term leading the NRC will be one ensuring greater safety to the public as you proceed with the Commission's important business.

Our organization has followed nuclear issues carefully for the last 22 years. We believe the public safety will be enhanced if the following urgent issues regarding the nation's operating reactors are addressed as soon as possible:

1. Assess the possible shutdown of all 23 GE BWR Mark I reactors that are currently operating in the United States. By analyzing the Fukushima Daiichi data, plus other accidents and long-acknowledged major design flaws, it should be clear that the Mark I reactors are a threat to our nation.
2. Re-evaluate license extensions that the NRC has already approved for the nation's operating reactors, utilizing new information and lessons learned from the ongoing Fukushima disaster.
3. Evaluate the condition of the irradiated fuel rods that are currently stored in reactor fuel pools. Determine those that should be transferred to on-site dry storage casks. It is our understanding that funds already collected could be used to relocate fuel rods to dry casks to attain immediate, safer storage.
4. Review the adequacy of on-site emergency power at each reactor site, to assess whether supplemental power may be needed to protect against many possible reactor crises, including a fuel pool fire and/or explosion.
5. Evaluate every nuclear utility's response to the most current fire protection codes and standards, including both the performance-based standard (National Fire Protection Assn. Standard 805) and the prescriptive code (10 CFR Part 50, Appendix R). It is our understanding that few utilities are adequately complying with either of those. Even Browns Ferry Unit One, where a near-catastrophic fire occurred in 1975, has yet to come into compliance with either the new prescriptive code that the Browns Ferry fire inspired, or the new performance-based fire protection standard.

In addition, we would like to request that you give your personal attention to a proposed new uranium fuel enrichment facility about which the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board held a

closed hearing on July 12 and 13. The Global Laser Enrichment (GLE) company in Wilmington, NC, a General Electric-Hitachi subsidiary, is testing this new technology. The NRC staff released an Environmental Impact Statement regarding the GLE facility on May 10, 2012, and recommended issuing a license for it.

As you may have been advised, on December 23, 2010, the Federal Register posted a petition to the NRC from the American Physical Society (APS), requesting that the NRC **require a weapons proliferation assessment for any new nuclear technology that comes before the NRC for licensing**. (Federal Register–Docket No. PRM-70-9;NRC-2010-0372). We strongly urge the NRC to officially adopt the policy proposed by the APS. We understand that the NRC is planning to consider the proposal in October 2012 . We do not believe that the NRC has conducted a weapons proliferation assessment of the GLE technology. Therefore we urge the NRC to defer its decision on the GLE license request until a proliferation assessment has been conducted.

The GE Stockholders' Alliance is a nonprofit association of GE Stockholders. We support a carbon-free, nuclear-free future. We work to urge GE to promote business opportunities that advance truly renewable energy and energy conservation. We formed in 1980 and have been in dialogue with GE management regularly ever since.

We send our best wishes to you as you tackle the enormous and contentious problems and decisions before you.

Sincerely,

Patricia Birnie, Chair  
520-661-9671  
[patbirnie@greenbicycle.net](mailto:patbirnie@greenbicycle.net)

cc: Jeffrey Immelt, Chief Executive Officer, General Electric Company  
Dr. Robert Byer, President, American Physical Society  
American Center for Physics, One Physics Ellipse, College Park, MD 20740

Enclosure: "Japan Panel Blames Disaster on Negligence" The Wall Street Journal, July 6, 2012

Link: "Fukushima Meltdown a Manmade Disaster" The Guardian, July 5, 2012

[http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2012/jul/05/fukushima-meltdown-manmade-disaster?CMP=twf\\_fd](http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2012/jul/05/fukushima-meltdown-manmade-disaster?CMP=twf_fd)