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Subject: FW: NOTIFICATION OF THE SCOPING PROCESS FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE WASTE CONFIDENCE DECISION AND RULE UPDATE AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS AND WEBINARS
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Subject: NOTIFICATION OF THE SCOPING PROCESS FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE WASTE CONFIDENCE DECISION AND RULE UPDATE AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS AND WEBINARS

Spokesman Allen E. Lawson, Jr.

Hello,

The following letter was sent to you yesterday via priority mail. However, because the address we have for you is a P.O. Box, I wanted to be sure that you received the information below in time to participate in today's public meeting webcast. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC or Commission) is updating its Waste Confidence Decision and Rule. The NRC intends to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) to support the rulemaking to update the Commission's Waste Confidence Decision and Rule, and is conducting a scoping process to gather information necessary to prepare the EIS. Comments on the scope of the Waste Confidence EIS will be accepted up to January 2, 2013.

The NRC intends to gather the information necessary to prepare an EIS to evaluate the environmental impacts of the storage of spent nuclear fuel after cessation of reactor operations. This EIS will form the technical basis for the revision of the Waste Confidence Decision and Rule. The NRC will first conduct a scoping process for the EIS and thereafter will prepare a draft EIS and draft Waste Confidence Decision and proposed Rule for public comment. Participation in this scoping process by members of Tribal governments is encouraged. The NRC is specifically interested in initiating a dialogue with Federally-recognized Native American tribal governments located near NRC-licensed (or proposed) facilities.

As part of the scoping process, the NRC is hosting two public meetings on November 14 and two webinars on December 5 and 6. The public meetings will be web-streamed via the NRC's website. See the NRC's Live Meeting Webcast page to participate: <http://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/public-meetings/webcast-live.html>. All meetings and webinars will be transcribed and will include the following: (1) an overview by the NRC staff of the environmental review process, the proposed scope of the EIS to support the Waste Confidence Decision and Rule update, and the proposed review schedule; and (2) an opportunity for Tribal representatives, interested government agencies, organizations, and individuals to submit comments on the environmental issues or the proposed scope of the EIS. All meetings and webinars will have a moderated teleconference phone line so that remote attendees will have the opportunity to voice their comments. In addition to a moderated phone line, webinars will also feature a real-time instant messaging tool that will allow participants to type their questions and comments and send them to the NRC during the webinar. Additional information, including information on how to register and participate, on these meetings and webinars is contained in the enclosed *Federal Register* notice.

The meeting notice for the November 14 meetings has been included with this letter. A meeting notice for the December 5 and 6 webinars will be posted on the NRC's public meeting website at <http://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/public-meetings/index.cfm> and will be

available approximately two weeks before the webinars. The meeting notice will contain additional information, including agendas, teleconference phone line details, and information on how to access and participate in the webinars. This information will also be available on the NRC's Waste Confidence public website: <http://www.nrc.gov/waste/spent-fuel-storage/wcd.html>.

At the conclusion of the scoping process, the NRC will prepare a summary of the determinations and conclusions reached on the scope of the environmental review, including the significant issues identified, and will make this summary publicly available. The staff will then prepare and issue for comment the draft EIS, and update to the Waste Confidence Decision, and proposed Rule, which will be the subject of separate *Federal Register* notices and a series of public meetings at locations throughout the country. After receipt and consideration of comments on the EIS and proposed Rule, the NRC will prepare a final EIS and rule, which will also be available to the public.

The NRC would like to maintain regular channels of communication with engaged tribes and tribal organizations and will provide information on the Waste Confidence EIS and Rule update upon request. At the request of tribal governments, the NRC, if invited, would be willing to participate in government-to-government meetings to discuss its Waste Confidence EIS development effort, and welcomes participation by tribes during the scoping and draft EIS comment periods.

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Kind regards,
Stuart



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