

March 7, 2013

The Honorable Edward J. Markey
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Markey:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to your letter dated February 7, 2013, voicing support for the addition of engineered filters to venting systems for boiling water reactors with Mark I and Mark II containments, and expressing concern regarding certain statements made by NRC staff.

Responses to your specific questions are enclosed with this letter. The Commission appreciates receiving your views regarding filtered vents. The Commission understands the important decision before us and is giving the matter careful consideration. We asked the staff to solicit input from a wide range of stakeholders and requested expert opinion from the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards in preparing to consider this issue. The information provided in the paper, along with other information gathered by the Commission, will be reviewed during our deliberations.

If you have any additional questions, please contact me or Ms. Rebecca Schmidt, Director of the Office of Congressional Affairs, at (301) 415-1776.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Allison M. Macfarlane

Enclosure:
As stated