

2035

General Information

Assigned Office: OEDO

OEDO Due Date: 03/12/2013

Other Assignees:

SECY Due Date: 03/14/2013

Date Response

Requested by Originator:

Other Parties:

Subject: Next Important Steps to Protect the 31 Similarly Designed United States Nuclear Reactors Following Fukushima

Description:

CC Routing: NRR

ADAMS Accession Numbers - Incoming:

Response / Package:

Other Information

Cross Reference No: LTR-13-0159

SRM\Other: No

Process Information

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OEDO Concurrence: No

Signature Level: Chairman Macfarlane

OCM Concurrence: No

Special Instructions:

OCA Concurrence: No

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 Barbara Boxer, et al.,

Date of Incoming: 02/20/2013

Originator Org: Congress

Document Received by OEDO Date: 02/22/2013

Addressee: Chairman Macfarlane

Incoming Task: Letter

OEDO POC: Roger Rihm

Template: SECY-017

E-RIDS: SECY-01

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

Date Printed: Feb 21, 2013 16:04

PAPER NUMBER: LTR-13-0159 LOGGING DATE: 02/21/2013

ACTION OFFICE: EDO

AUTHOR: SEN Barbara Boxer, *etal.*

AFFILIATION: CONG

ADDRESSEE: CHRM Allison Macfarlane

SUBJECT: Expresses that the NRC promptly take the next important steps to protect the 31 similarly designed U.S. nuclear reactors, following the tragedy at Fukushima almost two years ago

ACTION: Signature of Chairman

DISTRIBUTION: RF, OCA to Ack.

LETTER DATE: 02/20/2013

ACKNOWLEDGED No

SPECIAL HANDLING: Commission Correspondence.

NOTES:

FILE LOCATION: ADAMS

DATE DUE: 03/14/2013

DATE SIGNED:

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 20, 2013

The Honorable Allison M. Macfarlane
Chairman
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
11555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Chairman Macfarlane:

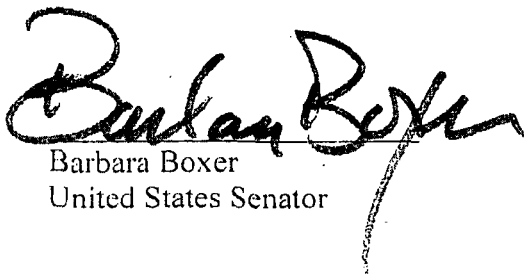
Next month marks two years since the earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear meltdown in Fukushima, Japan, and we are writing to urge the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to promptly take the next important steps needed to protect the 31 similarly designed U.S. nuclear reactors.

The NRC is legally responsible for ensuring when nuclear materials are used in the country, they are safe and secure. During the years since the disaster in Japan, the NRC staff has worked to conduct numerous studies evaluating the adequacy of U.S. nuclear safety standards, including containment venting systems. In November 2012 the NRC staff recommended the Commission require hardened vents that would operate in a severe accident and include filters to reduce the amount of radioactive material released into the environment. The NRC staff concluded this capability could help keep containment structures intact and documented that these technologies have been demonstrated in nuclear plants around the world. The NRC staff also found the safety benefit of this feature exceeds the cost, even while being restricted from considering the economic costs of an accident like in Japan that left communities uninhabitable.


Two and a half months have already passed since the NRC staff made this well-reasoned recommendation to the Commission and implementing these safety measures will likely take several years. The tens of millions of Americans who live near the affected reactors located in 15 states should not face additional delays.

We urge the Commission to promptly require installation of engineered filtered venting systems, consistent with the expert judgment of the NRC staff, the agency's goal of ensuring all safety features needed to address a Fukushima-type disaster are in place after five years, and the direction from Congress in the Fiscal Year 2012 Final Consolidated Appropriations Bill conference report. We will continue to provide oversight of agency activities dedicated to achieving that goal. If you have questions, please have your staff contact Grant Cope of Chairman Boxer's staff at 202-224-8832.

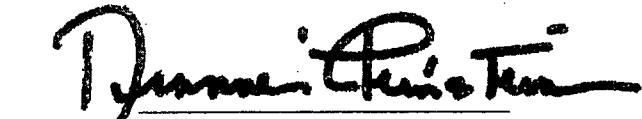
Sincerely,




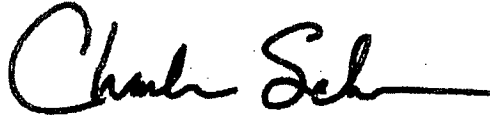
Barbara Boxer
United States Senator

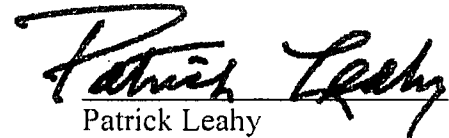


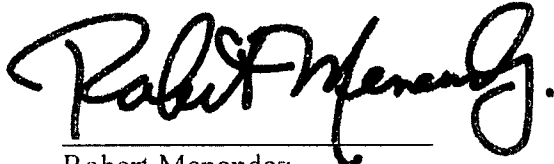
Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

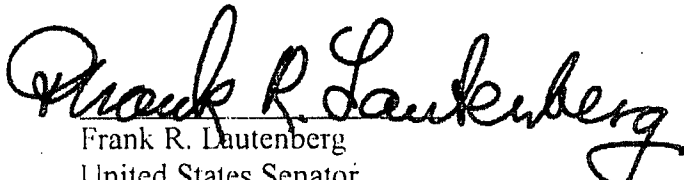

Richard Durbin
United States Senator

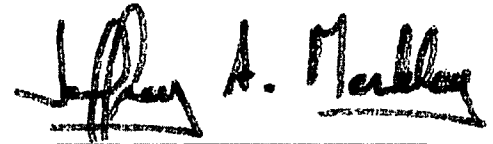

Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator

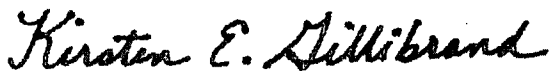

Patrick Leahy
United States Senator

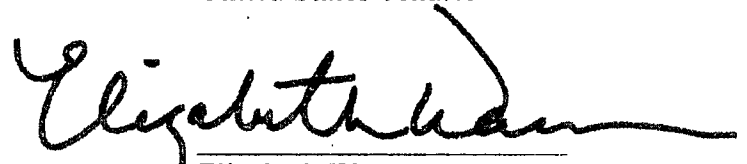

Robert Menendez
United States Senator


Bernard Sanders
United States Senator


Frank R. Lautenberg
United States Senator


Jeff Merkley
United States Senator


Kirsten E. Gillibrand
United States Senator


Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator