

September 4, 2013

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
Chairman, Committee on Environment
and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Madam Chairman:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is proposing to revise its generic determination on the environmental impacts of continued storage of spent nuclear fuel after the end of a reactor's licensed life for operation and prior to ultimate disposal. The NRC has prepared a draft generic environmental impact statement, draft NUREG-2157, "Waste Confidence Generic Environmental Impact Statement," to support this proposed rule. The proposed rule would conclude that the generic analysis in addresses the environmental impacts of continued storage of spent nuclear fuel beyond the licensed life for operation of a reactor and supports the determination that it is feasible to safely store spent nuclear fuel beyond the licensed life for operation of a reactor and to have a mined geologic repository within 60 years following the licensed life for operation of a reactor. The proposed rule also would clarify that the generic determination applies to license renewals for independent spent fuel storage installations. The Commission is also proposing to make conforming amendments to the Commission's 2013 findings on the environmental effects of renewing the operating license of a nuclear power plant to address issues related to the storage of spent nuclear fuel after a reactor's licensed life for operation. The proposed rule will be published in the *Federal Register* soon for a 75-day public comment period. For more information, see the enclosed proposed rule.

The NRC plans to hold 10 public meetings across the country, as well as two nationally webcast meetings to obtain public input on the proposed rule and draft environmental impact statement.

Sincerely,

/RA/ Amy Powell for

Rebecca L. Schmidt, Director
Office of Congressional Affairs

Enclosure:
Federal Register Notice

cc: Senator David Vitter

September 4, 2013

The Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman, Committee on Energy
and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is proposing to revise its generic determination on the environmental impacts of continued storage of spent nuclear fuel after the end of a reactor's licensed life for operation and prior to ultimate disposal. The NRC has prepared a draft generic environmental impact statement, draft NUREG-2157, "Waste Confidence Generic Environmental Impact Statement," to support this proposed rule. The proposed rule would conclude that the generic analysis in addresses the environmental impacts of continued storage of spent nuclear fuel beyond the licensed life for operation of a reactor and supports the determination that it is feasible to safely store spent nuclear fuel beyond the licensed life for operation of a reactor and to have a mined geologic repository within 60 years following the licensed life for operation of a reactor. The proposed rule also would clarify that the generic determination applies to license renewals for independent spent fuel storage installations. The Commission is also proposing to make conforming amendments to the Commission's 2013 findings on the environmental effects of renewing the operating license of a nuclear power plant to address issues related to the storage of spent nuclear fuel after a reactor's licensed life for operation. The proposed rule will be published in the *Federal Register* soon for a 75-day public comment period. For more information, see the enclosed proposed rule.

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/RA/ Amy Powell for

Rebecca L. Schmidt, Director
Office of Congressional Affairs

Enclosure:
Federal Register Notice

cc: Representative Henry A. Waxman

September 4, 2013

The Honorable Ed Whitfield
Chairman, Subcommittee on Energy and Power
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is proposing to revise its generic determination on the environmental impacts of continued storage of spent nuclear fuel after the end of a reactor's licensed life for operation and prior to ultimate disposal. The NRC has prepared a draft generic environmental impact statement, draft NUREG-2157, "Waste Confidence Generic Environmental Impact Statement," to support this proposed rule. The proposed rule would conclude that the generic analysis in addresses the environmental impacts of continued storage of spent nuclear fuel beyond the licensed life for operation of a reactor and supports the determination that it is feasible to safely store spent nuclear fuel beyond the licensed life for operation of a reactor and to have a mined geologic repository within 60 years following the licensed life for operation of a reactor. The proposed rule also would clarify that the generic determination applies to license renewals for independent spent fuel storage installations. The Commission is also proposing to make conforming amendments to the Commission's 2013 findings on the environmental effects of renewing the operating license of a nuclear power plant to address issues related to the storage of spent nuclear fuel after a reactor's licensed life for operation. The proposed rule will be published in the *Federal Register* soon for a 75-day public comment period. For more information, see the enclosed proposed rule.

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/RA/ Amy Powell for

Rebecca L. Schmidt, Director
Office of Congressional Affairs

Enclosure:
Federal Register Notice

cc: Representative Bobby L. Rush

September 4, 2013

The Honorable John Shimkus
Chairman, Subcommittee on Environment
and the Economy
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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/RA/ Amy Powell for

Rebecca L. Schmidt, Director
Office of Congressional Affairs

Enclosure:
Federal Register Notice

cc: Representative Paul Tonko

September 4, 2013

The Honorable Thomas R. Carper
Chairman, Subcommittee on Clean Air
and Nuclear Safety
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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cc: Senator Jeff Sessions

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United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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Rebecca L. Schmidt, Director
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cc: Senator David Vitter

Identical Letters sent to:

The Honorable Fred Upton with cc to Representative Henry A. Waxman
The Honorable Ed Whitfield with cc to Representative Bobby L. Rush
The Honorable John Shimkus with cc to Representative Paul Tonko
The Honorable Thomas R. Carper cc to Senator Jeff Sessions

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