

December 13, 2013

The Honorable Jack Reed
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Reed:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to your letter of October 31, 2013, forwarding a sample of constituent correspondence you have received regarding possible radiation effects in the United States from the accident at Fukushima.

NRC Chairman Macfarlane recently completed her second trip to Japan this year. The agency continues to regularly discuss the situation at Fukushima with the Japanese Nuclear Regulatory Authority (JNRA) and the Japanese utility (TEPCO), and stands ready to support JNRA if asked. In addition, the NRC is communicating routinely with other Federal and State agencies. All the available evidence leads the NRC to conclude that the Fukushima situation has not and will not affect U.S. public health.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) monitors the safety of FDA-regulated food, including seafood. According to the FDA, there is no evidence to show a threat to public health and safety in the U.S. from fish caught off the U.S. West Coast, and the FDA is not advising consumers to alter their consumption of fish and fishery products. More information from the FDA is available at <http://www.fda.gov/newsevents/publichealthfocus/ucm247403.htm>.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is responsible for modeling and monitoring the movement of marine debris related to the tsunami in Japan. The NOAA Marine Debris Program is working with Federal, State, and local partners to collect data, assess the debris, and reduce possible impacts to our natural resources and coastal communities. More information is available at <http://marinedebris.noaa.gov/disaster-debris/japan-tsunami-marine-debris>.

Finally, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) continues to monitor the situation and interact with other Federal agencies. Information on EPA's RadNet program, which monitors radioactivity levels in the environment, is available at <http://epa.gov/radnet/>.

I hope this information is useful to you and your constituents. If you need any additional information, please contact me or Rebecca Schmidt, Director of the Office of Congressional Affairs, at (301) 415-1776.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Mark A. Satorius
Executive Director
for Operations

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