

July 3, 2014

The Honorable Thomas Carper
Chairman, Committee on Homeland
Security and Governmental Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am writing in response to the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) Report GAO-14-323, "Uranium Contamination, Overall Scope, Time Frame, and Cost Information is Needed for Contamination Cleanup on the Navajo Reservation," dated May 2014.

In this report, GAO made the following recommendation for executive action to several Federal agencies involved in the cleanup of the uranium contamination on the Navajo Nation, including the NRC: "To ensure that agencies working on the 2014 five year plan better align their activities and resources, we recommend that the Administrator of EPA; the Secretaries of Energy, the Interior, Health and Human Services; and the Chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, as they develop a coordinated outreach strategy to include in the 2014 five year plan, take action to incorporate key practices in their collaborative effort, such as defining and agreeing on the agencies' respective roles and responsibilities."

The NRC agrees with the recommendation and is working with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to incorporate these practices in the next five year plan. The current draft of the next five year plan addresses improving Federal agency collaboration and includes maintaining a master calendar of outreach activities and the establishment of a Community Outreach Network, led by a Community Outreach Coordinator, that will be located on the Navajo Reservation. The NRC will work with DOE, EPA, DOI and DHHS to support the outreach activities in the five year plan, including participating in stakeholder workshops and contributing, as appropriate, to the educational and public information activities in the plan.

- 2 -

The NRC appreciates the opportunity to inform you of the actions NRC will take regarding the recommendation in the GAO Report. Should you have any questions, please contact Ms. Amy Powell, Acting Director of the Office of Congressional Affairs, at (301) 415-1673.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Allison M. Macfarlane

cc: Senator Tom Coburn

Identical letter sent to:

The Honorable Thomas Carper
Chairman, Committee on Homeland
Security and Governmental Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510
cc: Senator Tom Coburn

The Honorable Darrell Issa
Chairman, Committee on Oversight
and Government Reform
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
cc: Representative Elijah Cummings

Mr. J. Alfredo Gomez, Director
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