

September 11, 2015

The Honorable James M. Inhofe
Chairman, Committee on Environment
and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to your letter of August 12, 2015, urging the Commission to retain the agency's current practice of not providing local area network (LAN) access to individuals participating in the agency's Foreign Assignee Program. We appreciate your expression of support for this program and also recognize that cyber security is a significant issue facing both the U.S. government and the private sector. Let me assure you that the Commission and its staff are committed to the protection of sensitive information and managing the Foreign Assignee Program in a manner that does not jeopardize the security of our information technology infrastructure and its contents.

The staff's proposed plan to implement a pilot program granting LAN access to one particular foreign assignee, with the possibility that it could lead to LAN access for others on a case-by-case basis, has been disapproved by the Commission. The Commission has directed the staff to provide a notation vote paper for the Commission's consideration outlining any proposed changes to the foreign assignee program and implications associated with such changes. Most of the issues in your detailed questions will be addressed in the context of this notation vote paper. Consequently, we are providing answers to only those questions that do not bear on the notation vote paper. After the Commission completes action on that paper, we will respond to your remaining questions.

Please note that several of the enclosed documents are not publicly available and are thus marked "not for public disclosure." We respectfully ask that these handling instructions be honored.

If you need assistance on any other matter, please contact me or Eugene Dacus, Director of the Office of Congressional Affairs, at (301) 415-1776.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Stephen G. Burns

Enclosure:
As stated

cc: Senator Barbara Boxer

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