



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
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September 9, 2015

Dr. Kevin Crowley, Senior Board Director  
Nuclear and Radiation Studies Board  
Division on Earth and Life Studies  
The National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine  
500 5<sup>th</sup> St. NW, Washington DC 20001

Dear Dr. Crowley:

This letter is to inform you that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has decided to end the “Analysis of Cancer Risks in Populations near Nuclear Facilities” study due to the cost and time that would be needed to complete the study. We knew this study would be a challenge to execute because of the very low offsite doses from the operation of NRC-licensed facilities and the limited ability for epidemiology to detect health effects at these low exposures—the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) Phase 1 and Phase 2 Pilot Planning reports thoroughly document these challenges. However, even with these technical challenges, the NRC thought it was worthwhile to continue exploring the feasibility of performing the study through the pilot study. Unfortunately, current agency fiscal realities and the estimated time needed to complete the study, preclude us from continuing.

The NRC staff appreciates NAS’s candid advice on the limited usefulness of the pilot results in communicating risks to the public and the large costs to perform the study. As a result, the staff will continue to monitor international and national activity in this area to determine if further study is warranted. We also encourage any other entities in the United States that would want to do these types of studies to use the NRC-funded Phase 1 and Phase 2 Pilot Planning reports as guidance in initiating any future efforts.

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Brian W. Sheron, Director  
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

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Brian W. Sheron, Director  
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U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

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