

December 11, 2015

The Honorable Harry Reid  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Reid:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to your letter of October 29, 2015, which requests information on packages that the NRC has approved for transportation of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste. Our responses to your requests 1, 2, and 4 are enclosed with this letter. Information responsive to your requests 3, 5, and 6 will take additional time for us to prepare. We will provide you that additional information as soon as possible.

The NRC currently has 19 packages certified for transportation of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste. The U.S. Department of Energy, Division of Naval Reactors (Naval Reactors), has designed two of those packages. While Naval Reactors has the authority to approve packages for transport of spent nuclear fuel and does not use NRC certificates to ship spent nuclear fuel; the NRC does a comity review of their packages and issues certificates of compliance for them. An Executive Directive signed by President Kennedy (National Security Action Memorandum No. 51, dated May 8, 1961) directed Naval Reactors to seek an independent safety review of its activities. Naval Reactors has chosen to seek this safety review from the NRC. In addition, the information provided by Naval Reactors to the NRC for review is classified Confidential – Restricted Data, therefore, at this time, the NRC is not including information on these two packages in our response.

I appreciate your patience while we collect the remainder of the requested information. If you have any questions about the enclosed materials, please contact me or Eugene Dacus, Director of the Office of Congressional Affairs, at (301) 415-1776.

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Stephen G. Burns

Enclosure:  
Partial Responses to Requests  
for Information Items 1, 2, and 4

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This correspondence addresses policy issues previously resolved by the Commission, transmits factual information, or restates Commission policy.

Identical letter sent to The Honorable Dean Heller

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