

**FOIA Resource**

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**From:** (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 02, 2016 6:55 PM  
**To:** FOIA Resource  
**Subject:** [External\_Sender] FOIA request  
**Attachments:** NRC response to Rosmarin question to Burns.pdf

FOIA/PA # JULST  
**Case No.:** 2016-0270  
**Date Rec'd:** 2/3/2016  
**Specialist:** BCS  
**Related Case:**

Dear NRC Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act (FOIA/PA) Officer,

On January 28, 2016 I received an email with a letter from Darrell E. Adams, NRC Office of Congressional Affairs, responding to a question that I asked Chairman Burns at a government officials meeting in Tarrytown, NY on December 7, 2015. (See attached).

The letter restated my question to the Chairman as follows:

Response to Question from Councilwoman Amy Rosmarin  
(Asked during meeting on December 7, 2015)

*Regarding NRC communications with FERC. Did the NRC discuss its sensitivity analysis regarding valve closure time with FERC?*

*Yes*

Please provide a copy of the above referenced communication between the NRC and FERC.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Amy Rosmarin

(b) (6)



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

January 28, 2015

The Honorable Amy Rosmarin  
Councilwoman, Town of North Salem  
Delancey Hall  
266 Titicus Road  
North Salem, NY 10560

Dear Councilwoman Rosmarin:

The Chairman of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Stephen G. Burns, met with you and your colleagues on December 7, 2015. From that meeting, you inquired about the NRC's discussion with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission regarding valve closure time. The response to your question is enclosed.

Please feel free to contact me at (301) 415-2339, if you have questions or need more information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Adams", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Darrell E. Adams  
Office of Congressional Affairs

Enclosure:  
As stated

**Response to Question from Councilwoman Amy Rosmarin**  
**(Asked during meeting on December 7, 2015)**

*Regarding NRC communications with FERC. Did the NRC discuss its sensitivity analysis regarding valve closure time with FERC?*

Yes

Based on information included in Spectra Energy's application to FERC, Entergy's site hazards analysis assumed that remote plant operators located in Houston, TX, would be able to recognize a pipe rupture from pressure sensors located in the pipeline and take appropriate actions to close the pipeline isolation valves within 3 minutes of a major pipe rupture.

Due to concerns regarding the significance of the assumed valve closure time, the NRC staff performed a bounding sensitivity analysis. The staff's sensitivity analysis consisted of two cases. First, the staff considered the case when the isolation valves are assumed to close within the time specified by Spectra Energy (3 minutes). Second, the staff assumed the release of gas for a full hour with the unbroken end of pipe connected to an infinite source. The resulting pressure pulse and heat flux values are only marginally different from one another and, in both cases, showed that equipment relied on to safely shut down the facility would remain available and operable. Therefore, the staff concluded that valve closure times do not have a significant impact on the site hazard analysis, and the licensee's assumption of a 3 minute valve closure time does not have a material impact on that analysis.

This information was previously shared with FERC.