

March 1, 2016

The Honorable Harold Rogers  
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to the Joint Explanatory Statement that accompanied the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016 (Public Law 114-113). The Joint Explanatory Statement requested that the NRC submit a plan for making changes to the agency's rulemaking process. I have enclosed the "Commission Involvement in the Early Stages of Rulemaking" report that responds to the direction in the Joint Explanatory Statement.

On February 3, 2016, the Commission issued a staff requirements memorandum (SRM) requiring the staff to submit a rulemaking plan for Commission review and approval before the initiation of any rulemaking that is not already explicitly delegated to the staff (Enclosure 1). The SRM directed the staff to make specific revisions to the rulemaking plan template to ensure that the template is in alignment with the items contained in the Joint Explanatory Statement. The revised template is attached to the enclosed report.

Please contact me or Eugene Dacus, Director of the Office of Congressional Affairs, at 301-415-1776, if you have questions or need more information.

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Stephen G. Burns

Enclosures:  
As stated

cc: Representative Nita Lowey

**Identical letter sent to:**

The Honorable Harold Rogers  
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515  
cc: Representative Nita Lowey

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510  
cc: Senator Barbara Mikulski