

April 5, 2017

Mr. Frank Rusco, Director  
Natural Resources and Environment  
U.S. Government Accountability Office  
441 G Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20226

Dear Mr. Rusco:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to your e-mail dated March 2, 2017, which provided the NRC an opportunity to review and comment on the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) draft report GAO-17-340, "Commercial Nuclear Waste: Resuming Licensing of the Yucca Mountain Repository Would Require Rebuilding Capacity at DOE and NRC, Among Other Key Steps."

The NRC staff appreciates the opportunity to review the draft report as well as the GAO staff's professionalism and constructive interactions during this GAO engagement. Overall, the NRC agrees with the draft report and its findings. In the enclosure to this letter, we have provided some minor comments and clarifications for your consideration, which may help to provide an accurate historical perspective of Yucca Mountain repository development and to clarify key steps that would be necessary should the licensing process resume.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide comments on the draft GAO report. Please feel free to contact Mr. John Jolicoeur at (301) 415-1642 or [John.Jolicoeur@nrc.gov](mailto:John.Jolicoeur@nrc.gov) if you have questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

***/RA by Frederick D. Brown/***

Victor M. McCree  
Executive Director  
for Operations

Enclosure:  
NRC Comments on Draft Report  
GAO-17-340

SUBJECT: LETTER TO FRANK RUSCO RE: RESPONSE TO DRAFT REPORT  
GAO-17-340, "COMMERCIAL NUCLEAR WASTE: RESUMING LICENSING OF  
THE YUCCA MOUNTAIN REPOSITORY WOULD REQUIRE REBUILDING  
CAPACITY AT DOE AND NRC, AMONG OTHER KEY STEPS,"  
DATED APRIL 5, 2017

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