

November 3, 2017

Mr. Trevor A. Fay
2807 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Apt. #B-102
Washington, DC 20008

Dear Mr. Fay:

I am responding to your recent letter to Chairman Svinicki of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). In your letter, you expressed your views regarding the status of disposal of high-level radioactive waste in a proposed repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada. The NRC is responsible for licensing and regulating the storage and disposal of high-level waste, which includes commercial spent nuclear fuel. Such waste is currently safely stored in licensed independent spent fuel storage installations at current and former reactor sites. In accordance with the national policy, spent nuclear fuel would be moved to a geologic repository at Yucca Mountain, assuming NRC authorizes its construction and the U.S. Department of Energy constructs the repository.

In order to make its licensing decision on whether to authorize construction of the proposed repository, the NRC first needs to complete the licensing proceeding. The remaining steps in this proceeding include completion of the adjudicatory hearing and Commission review of the outcome of the proceeding. As you may know, the NRC's licensing proceeding had been suspended due to lack of Congressional appropriated funds. The Administration has included \$30 million for NRC activities associated with Yucca Mountain disposal and interim storage facility activities in the Fiscal Year 2018 budget proposal. Should Congress provide funding to the NRC for Yucca Mountain activities, the Commission would provide direction to staff on next steps for the licensing proceeding. I hope you find my letter responsive to your concerns in terms of providing you with updated information on the status of NRC activities as they relate to the Yucca Mountain licensing proceeding.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Marc L. Dapas, Director
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

LTR-17-0395-TICKET TREVOR FAY, LETTER RE: SUPPORT FOR THE RAPID APPROVAL AND COMPLETION OF THE YUCCA MOUNTAIN NUCLEAR WASTE REPOSITORY IN NEVADA (NMSS), DOCUMENT DATE: NOVEMBER 3, 2017

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