

July 6, 2018

Wyatt M  
1364 York Street  
Denver, CO 80206

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO LETTER REGARDING THE NEED FOR LONG TERM STORAGE  
OF NUCLEAR WASTE

Dear Wyatt M,

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to your letter dated May 24, 2018, to former Chairman Allison MacFarlane in which you expressed your concerns regarding the safe storage and disposal of spent nuclear fuel.

The NRC's responsibility is to protect public health and safety in the civilian uses of radioactive materials. As the independent regulatory authority for the storage and disposal of spent nuclear fuel, the NRC has specified regulatory requirements in Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Parts 50, 52, 60, 63, 72 and 73 for ensuring the safe storage and disposal of high-level radioactive waste (HLW). In particular, the NRC has an established regulatory process for licensing, regulating, and inspecting spent nuclear fuel storage facilities. Through licensing and inspection, the NRC ensures that storage and handling of spent nuclear fuel continues to be managed safely and without significant impacts to the environment.

The National policy for disposal of spent nuclear fuel is set by Congress and the President. The National policy for spent nuclear fuel remains the same—disposal in a deep geologic repository. Given the uncertainty regarding the development of a repository, the NRC has analyzed the environmental impacts associated with different timeframes for continued storage of spent nuclear fuel. More information can be found at <https://www.nrc.gov/waste/spent-fuel-storage/wcd.html>. This analysis enables the NRC to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act, and does not, in any way, endorse an extended timeframe for storage of spent nuclear fuel.

Sincerely,

**/RA John McKirgan Acting for/**

Michael C. Layton, Director  
Division of Spent Fuel Management  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

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