



CHAIRMAN

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

November 20, 2018

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Chairman, Subcommittee on Clean Air
and Nuclear Safety
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Madam Chairwoman:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am pleased to submit the "Semiannual Status Report on the Licensing Activities and Regulatory Duties of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission." The enclosed report covers NRC activities from April through September 2018 and includes a list of rulemaking activities and their priority and schedule, as requested in the Joint Explanatory Statement that accompanied the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018.

As reported previously, early in 2018, Florida Power & Light Company filed the first-ever subsequent license renewal application, seeking to renew the operating licenses for the company's Turkey Point Nuclear Generating Units 3 and 4, in Homestead, FL, for a second time for an additional 20 years. Subsequently, the NRC conducted an acceptance review to identify whether the application was reasonably complete and conformed to the timing and information requirements in applicable regulations. On April 26, 2018, the NRC accepted the application for review.

Similarly, the NRC announced on August 29, 2018, that it had accepted for review a second application for subsequent license renewal. This application, originally submitted on July 10, 2018, was from Exelon Generating Company, LLC, to renew, for a second time, the operating licenses of Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station, Units 2 and 3, located near Lancaster, PA. The agency accepted this application for review on August 27, 2018.

During this reporting period, renewed operating licenses were issued for Indian Point Units 2 and 3, the license renewal application was withdrawn by the applicant for Diablo Canyon Units 1 and 2, and the NRC had under review five license renewal applications, including the two subsequent license renewal applications noted above, for a total of nine power reactors. Separately, the NRC continued to address safety enhancements, described in the enclosed report, in response to the accident at the Fukushima Dai-ichi reactors in Japan.

Other Noteworthy Licensing and Regulatory Activities in the Past 6 Months

During April and May, the NRC held a series of public meetings seeking public comment on the scope of its environmental review of Holtec International's application for a license to construct and operate a consolidated interim spent fuel storage facility in Lea County, NM. The company intends initially to store 500 canisters holding approximately 8,680 metric tons of spent

nuclear fuel, and eventually to store up to 10,000 canisters. The agency accepted the application for review on March 19, 2018.

On September 5, 2018, the NRC announced resumption of its safety and environmental reviews of an application by Interim Storage Partners to construct and operate a consolidated interim spent fuel storage facility in Andrews County, TX. The agency had suspended its reviews at the request of the original applicant pending the anticipated sale of the company. The new company submitted a revised application to the NRC in June.

On May 9, 2018, the NRC issued a construction permit to Northwest Medical Isotopes, LLC, for a molybdenum-99 production facility in Columbia, MO. Molybdenum-99 generates the technetium-99m used in one of the most common nuclear medicine procedures in the United States. The NRC's Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards independently reviewed aspects of the application related to safety as well as the staff's safety evaluation report.

Also in May, the NRC solicited public comments on its strategy for identifying administrative regulations that are outdated or duplicative and can be eliminated without adverse effect on the agency mission. The goal of the retrospective review is to enhance the management and administration of regulatory activities and to ensure the agency's regulations remain current and effective.

On June 8, 2018, the NRC sent to Congress its fiscal year 2017 annual report on abnormal occurrences, citing 11 medical events involving radioactive materials. An unscheduled incident or event is considered an abnormal occurrence if the Commission determines it is significant from the standpoint of public health or safety. Five reported abnormal occurrences happened at NRC licensees and the remainder occurred in Agreement States, where the NRC has agreements under which the States regulate industrial and medical uses of radioactive materials.

In early July, the NRC made publicly available an unclassified version of its annual report to Congress detailing the previous year's security inspection program. The report, which is required by the Energy Policy Act of 2005, covers the NRC's security inspection program, including force-on-force exercises for commercial nuclear power reactors and Category I fuel cycle facilities for calendar year 2017. In 2017, the NRC conducted 230 security inspections at commercial nuclear power plants and Category I fuel cycle facilities.

On July 18, 2018, the NRC announced that it has awarded 51 grants in fiscal year 2018 to 40 academic institutions in 25 States, totaling more than \$15 million. Recipients include 4-year universities and colleges, 2-year trade schools and community colleges, and minority-serving institutions, which are a Federally-recognized category of educational establishments. More than 3,200 students in 35 States and Puerto Rico have benefited from the program over its almost-10-year life. Through this program, the agency has funded multiple research and development, educational and training, and experiential learning projects to enhance academic excellence and to produce a future skilled workforce.

In August, the NRC published the 2018–2019 edition of its Information Digest, which describes the agency's responsibilities and activities and provides general information on nuclear-related topics. The Information Digest is published annually and is available electronically on the NRC Web site. The electronic version has embedded hyperlinks for easy access to additional information on major topics.

On September 25, 2018, the NRC entered into an agreement with the State of Wyoming, transferring regulatory authority to the State over certain radioactive materials. Specifically, with this agreement, the NRC is transferring responsibility for licensing, rulemaking, inspection, and enforcement activities necessary to regulate source material involved in uranium or thorium milling and the management and disposal of milling waste or mill tailings. Wyoming is now the 38th State to sign such an agreement with the NRC.

Finally, from April through September 2018, the agency conducted more than 500 public meetings, both in the Washington, DC area and around the country, in states and communities with NRC-licensed or proposed facilities, addressing a full range of NRC issues. The meetings included events sponsored by the Commission, advisory committees, licensing boards, and staff. Also during this time, the NRC received 334 new Freedom of Information Act requests and closed 304 such requests.

Please feel free to contact me or have your staff contact Eugene Dacus, Director of the Office of Congressional Affairs, at (301) 415-1776, if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kristine L. Svinicki', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kristine L. Svinicki

Enclosures:
As stated

cc: Senator Sheldon Whitehouse

Identical letter sent to:

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Chairman, Subcommittee on Clean Air
and Nuclear Safety
Committee on Environment and Public
Works
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510
cc: Senator Sheldon Whitehouse

The Honorable John Barrasso
Chairman, Committee on Environment
and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510
cc: Senator Thomas R. Carper

The Honorable Greg Walden
Chairman, Committee on Energy
and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
cc: Representative Frank Pallone, Jr.

The Honorable John Shimkus
Chairman, Subcommittee on Environment
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
cc: Representative Paul Tonko

The Honorable Mike Simpson
Chairman, Subcommittee on Energy
and Water Development
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
cc: Representative Marcy Kaptur

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Chairman, Subcommittee on Energy
and Water Development
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510
cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein

The Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman, Subcommittee on Energy
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
cc: Representative Bobby L. Rush