



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

February 7, 2020

The Honorable Edward J. Markey  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Markey:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to your December 20, 2019, letter in which you expressed opposition to aspects of the NRC staff's Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI) Inspection Program Enhancement Initiative.

In 2019, the NRC staff established a team of subject-matter experts to assess the ISFSI inspection program and to consider the experience gained through the prior decades of implementation. The primary objective is to evaluate and enhance the NRC's existing ISFSI inspection program by developing a clearer, risk-informed, comprehensive, and consistent approach to ISFSI inspections across the four NRC regions. The NRC staff conducted a review of the inspection program by considering probabilistic risk analyses, operating experience, and lessons learned from 30 years of ISFSI inspections. Since January 2019, the NRC staff also held public meetings on a variety of issues that included discussions of the status of the ISFSI Inspection Program Enhancement Initiative. Members of the public were invited to participate in each of these meetings, which were conducted via webinar or included a telephone bridge line to facilitate participation.

At a December 2, 2019 public meeting, the NRC staff discussed the results of the team's assessment of the ISFSI inspection program and recommendations for possible changes. The staff also requested public comments on these recommendations by December 20, 2019. The staff's recommendations and public comments will be evaluated before any final decision is made.

I appreciate your interest in these matters. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me or have your staff contact Eugene Dacus, Director of the Office of Congressional Affairs, at (301) 415-1776.

Sincerely,

Kristine L. Svinicki

Identical letter sent to:

The Honorable Edward J. Markey  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kamala D. Harris  
United States Senator  
Washington, DC 20510