



CHAIRMAN

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

April 1, 2020

The Honorable John A. Barrasso  
Chairman, Committee on Environment  
and Public Works  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to your March 2, 2020, letter, requesting that the Commission act on the NRC staff's recommendations for near-term improvements to the Reactor Oversight Process (ROP). In addition, you encouraged the staff to consider other actions related to the ROP.

The NRC has routinely assessed and modified various aspects of the ROP since the program was launched in 2000. These modifications have been based on analyses of inspection results, safety performance trends, operating experience, and lessons learned through the execution of the ROP over the past decades. The ROP Enhancement Initiative recommendations you referred to in your letter are currently being considered by the Commission. The staff annually assesses aspects of the ROP to determine whether additional actions to strengthen the ROP are warranted, taking into account public feedback. The Commission has provided the staff with clear direction on the types of ROP changes that require its approval.<sup>1</sup> Those staff recommendations for the ROP that meet the criteria will be decided by the Commission.

Thank you for sharing your perspectives on this matter. The Commission is mindful of your perspectives as we continue our review of the ROP program. 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

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<sup>1</sup> SRM-COMSECY-16-0022: Proposed Criteria for Reactor Oversight Process Changes Requiring Commission Approval and Notification

Identical letter sent to:

The Honorable John A. Barrasso  
Chairman, Committee on Environment  
and Public Works  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable James M. Inhofe  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin Cramer  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

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

The Honorable M. Michael Rounds  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Boozman  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Roger F. Wicker  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510