



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

May 25, 1999

RELEASED TO THE PDR

6/2/99

date

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initials

The Honorable Frank Murkowski, Chairman
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am pleased to inform you that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has completed another milestone in its interaction with the Department of Energy's (DOE) program to produce tritium in a commercial light water reactor. The staff has issued its safety evaluation report (SER) on the DOE topical report on the tritium production core.

Many technical issues have been satisfactorily addressed in the DOE topical report, according to the staff review. The topical report and the staff's SER should prove to be useful reference documents for a licensee preparing a specific license amendment request for authorization to irradiate a full-core load of tritium-producing burnable absorber rods in a particular reactor facility. In addition, the NRC staff review has identified several plant-specific interface issues and potential technical specification changes to be addressed in the license amendment application.

The NRC intends to continue to provide focused attention to DOE's tritium production needs and intends to carry out an expeditious and thorough review of any license amendments submitted by the Tennessee Valley Authority for production of tritium in the Watts Bar and Sequoyah plants.

Sincerely,

Shirley Ann Jackson

cc: Senator Jeff Bingaman

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

May 25, 1999

The Honorable John Warner, Chairman
Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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Sincerely,

Shirley Ann Jackson

cc: Senator Carl Levin



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May 25, 1999

The Honorable Joe L. Barton, Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Power
Committee on Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am pleased to inform you that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has completed another milestone in its interaction with the Department of Energy's (DOE) program to produce tritium in a commercial light water reactor. The staff has issued its safety evaluation report (SER) on the DOE topical report on the tritium production core.

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Sincerely,

Shirley Ann Jackson

cc: Representative Ralph M. Hall



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May 25, 1999

The Honorable Pete V. Domenici, Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am pleased to inform you that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has completed another milestone in its interaction with the Department of Energy's (DOE) program to produce tritium in a commercial light water reactor. The staff has issued its safety evaluation report (SER) on the DOE topical report on the tritium production core.

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Sincerely,

Shirley Ann Jackson

cc: Senator Harry Reid



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

May 25, 1999

The Honorable Ron Packard, Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am pleased to inform you that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has completed another milestone in its interaction with the Department of Energy's (DOE) program to produce tritium in a commercial light water reactor. The staff has issued its safety evaluation report (SER) on the DOE topical report on the tritium production core.

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Sincerely,

Shirley Ann Jackson

cc: Representative Peter J. Visclosky



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May 25, 1999

The Honorable Floyd Spence, Chairman
Committee on Armed Services
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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Sincerely,

Shirley Ann Jackson

cc: Representative Ike Skelton



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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

May 25, 1999

The Honorable James M. Inhofe, Chairman
Subcommittee on Clean Air, Wetlands,
Private Property and Nuclear Safety
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am pleased to inform you that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has completed another milestone in its interaction with the Department of Energy's (DOE) program to produce tritium in a commercial light water reactor. The staff has issued its safety evaluation report (SER) on the DOE topical report on the tritium production core.

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Sincerely,

Shirley Ann Jackson

cc: Senator Bob Graham



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May 25, 1999

The Honorable John Chafee, Chairman
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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Shirley Ann Jackson

cc: Senator Max Baucus



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May 25, 1999

The Honorable Bill Richardson
Secretary of Energy
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am pleased to inform you that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has completed another milestone in its interaction with the Department of Energy's (DOE) program to produce tritium in a commercial light water reactor. The staff has issued its safety evaluation report (SER) on the DOE topical report on the tritium production core.

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Shirley Ann Jackson

cc: Stephen M. Sohinki