



CHAIRMAN

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

July 7, 2021

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

Dear Senator Capito:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to your May 25, 2021, letter supporting the NRC's efforts to accelerate the establishment of the risk-informed, technology-inclusive regulatory framework for advanced nuclear technologies. Thank you for recognizing the considerable work by the NRC staff "to ensure that a thoughtful rulemaking is achieved on the accelerated timeline." The staff is currently working to complete this rulemaking by October 2024, which would be significantly ahead of the Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act (NEIMA) deadline of December 2027.

The Commission understands the importance of this effort to enable the development and deployment of advanced nuclear technologies. The NRC is developing a predictable, and appropriately flexible, framework to enable a more efficient licensing process. The framework will accommodate various advanced reactor technologies, prioritizing risk-informed and performance-based licensing approaches to protect public health and safety throughout the life of a facility.

As noted in your letter, completing this rulemaking on an accelerated schedule requires substantial efforts and resources. The NRC continues to engage with and seek input from numerous stakeholders, including the U.S. Department of Energy, trade groups, vendors, developers, nongovernmental organizations, members of the public, Congress, and the NRC's Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards on the development of this proposed rule. The Commission will submit a report to Congress by July 14, 2021, to provide a detailed account of the NRC's progress toward establishing this regulatory framework for advanced reactor technologies.

Thank you for your letter and your continued interest in the NRC's Part 53 rulemaking efforts. If you have additional questions or need more information, please contact me, or have your staff contact Eugene Dacus, Director of the Office of Congressional Affairs, at 301-415-1776.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. T. Hanson".

Christopher T. Hanson

Identical letter sent to:

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

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Barrasso
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Crapo
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Cory Booker
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510