



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

November 16, 2021

The Honorable Edward Markey
Chairman, Subcommittee on Clean Air,
Climate, and Nuclear Safety
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 submitting 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 1, 2021, through September 30, 2021, and includes a list of rulemaking activities, their priority and schedule, and actions taken to adhere to the backfit rule, as directed in House Report 116-449 accompanying the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021.

During this period, the NRC completed several noteworthy regulatory activities. In April 2021, the Commission directed the NRC staff to systematically review how environmental justice is addressed in the NRC’s programs, policies, and activities. In May 2021, the NRC issued subsequent renewed licenses for Surry Power Station, Units 1 and 2. In June 2021, the NRC awarded \$10.7 million in academic grants for students and faculty supporting nuclear science and engineering fields. Also in June 2021, the NRC staff launched a special inspection into Vogtle Electric Generating Plant, Unit 3 to address licensee response to quality issues. The NRC issued its special inspection report in August, as detailed in the enclosed report. Additionally, the NRC staff completed onsite inspection activities for the power reactor cyber security full implementation inspections. The completion of the cyber security full implementation inspections was part of a multi-year effort from July 2017 through June 2021 to verify implementation of the 2009 cyber security rule (10 CFR 73.54) at all operating power reactor sites. In July 2021, the NRC staff launched a special inspection of Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station to investigate a series of diesel generator failures over a period of 24 months and, separately, to investigate a complicated unplanned reactor shutdown that occurred in July; the results of the special inspection will be provided in the next semiannual report, when related oversight activities have been completed. In September 2021, the NRC issued a license to Interim Storage Partners for a consolidated interim storage facility in Texas after completing its safety and environmental reviews.

Other Noteworthy Activities in the Past 6 Months

From April 2021 through September 2021, the NRC staff conducted 88 security inspections at commercial nuclear power plants and Category I fuel cycle facilities. This includes a total of 11 force-on-force inspections involving simulated attacks on the selected facility to test the effectiveness of the licensee’s physical protection program. As detailed in

the enclosed report, the agency conducted seven modified full-scope force-on-force inspections (using COVID-19 precautions) and four limited-scope inspections at sites where the full-scope inspections could not be completed due to local COVID-19 hardship conditions.

The NRC continued using COVID-19 precautionary measures to help ensure the health and safety of its workforce, licensees' staff, and stakeholders in accordance with guidance provided by the Federal Government, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Office of Personnel Management, as well as State and local authorities. As a result, the impacts to NRC licensing activities and regulatory oversight during this reporting period were minimal and, where appropriate, are noted in the enclosed report.

Also, from April 2021 through September 2021, the NRC held 510 public meetings to address a range of NRC issues. The NRC also processed 140 Freedom of Information Act requests and received an additional 119 requests during the reporting period.

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 black ink, appearing to read "C. T. Hanson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and a distinct "T." followed by a stylized "Hanson".

Christopher T. Hanson

Enclosure:
As stated

cc: Senator James Inhofe

Identical letter sent to:

The Honorable Edward Markey
Chairman, Subcommittee on Clean Air,
Climate, and Nuclear Safety
Committee on Environment
and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510
cc: Senator James Inhofe

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

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

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

The Honorable Paul Tonko
Chairman, Subcommittee on Environment
and Climate Change
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
cc: Representative David B. McKinley

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

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