



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

July 22, 2024

Paul Murray  
Deputy Assistant Secretary  
Spent Fuel and High-Level Disposition  
United States Department of Energy  
Washington, DC 20585

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO MAY 15, 2024, LETTER TO JOHN LUBINSKI

Dear Paul Murray:

On behalf of John Lubinski, I am responding to your letter, dated May 15, 2024 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System [ADAMS] Accession Number ML24158A253). I appreciate the background you shared regarding the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) efforts (subject to appropriations) to conduct a future package performance demonstration of a rail-sized spent nuclear fuel Type B transportation cask. I also appreciate the engagements the DOE and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff have had during the last year as it is beneficial for the NRC to maintain awareness of the developments in the DOE waste management program and appreciate continued engagement as the DOE moves forward with planning and conducting testing activities.

Please see the enclosed information for responses to the information you requested regarding NRC's prior efforts related to a package performance study. Several of the documents are non-public, which I am sharing in the spirit of continued engagement and in accordance with the December 2014, NRC-DOE Inter-Agency nuclear safety information sharing agreement (ML14251A085). Please ensure that the DOE protects these documents with the appropriate level of sensitivity.

Please contact Chris Markley at (301-415-6293) or via email at [Christopher.Markley@nrc.gov](mailto:Christopher.Markley@nrc.gov) if you have questions regarding our response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Shana R. Helton".

Signed by Helton, Shana  
on 07/22/24

Shana Helton, Director  
Division of Fuel Management  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

Enclosures:  
As stated

This letter transmits Sensitive Internal Information. When separated from the enclosures, this letter is decontrolled.

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P. Murray

The following list of enclosed files are non-public unless otherwise indicated:

- Package: “12/23/03 - Memo M Virgilio & A Thadani, from E W Brach & M Mayfield - Communication Plan for the Package Performance Study (Appendix A - Project History, Appendix B - SECY-00-0042, Appendix C - User Need Memo and Response, & Appendix D - Milestones ).” (ML033290111)
  - “12/23/03 - Memo M Virgilio & A Thadani, from E W Brach & M Mayfield - Communication Plan for the Package Performance Study.” (ML033290093)
  - “COMMUNICATION PLAN FOR THE PACKAGE PERFORMANCE STUDY w/ Appendix A - Project History (and cover sheets for Appendix B - SECY-00-0042, Appendix C - User Need Memo and Response, & Appendix D - Milestones).” (ML033290140)
  - “Appendix D - PPS Project Milestones.” (ML033570520)
  - “SECY-00-0042 – ‘Transportation Risk Studies’” (ML003678541 public, not enclosed)
- “SECY-05-0051-Attachments 1 & 2: Details And Projected Cost Of A Demonstration Test Of A Full-Scale Spent Nuclear Fuel Rail Transportation Cask Under The Package Performance Study” (ML050730353)
- “(Enclosure) TA Briefing slides” (ML070580460)
- “07/02/04 - Acquisition of Spent Nuclear Fuel Rail Transportation Cask - Memo to the Commission fr Reyes.” (ML041590377)
- “Package Performance Study Options.” (ML031210274)
  - “Package Performance Study Options.” (ML031200180)
  - “Background Issue Paper FY 2005-2006 Budget Process Package Performance Study. (Attachment 1 to 04/29/03 Memo).” (ML031200185)
  - “Options for PPS Funding. (Attachment 2 to 04/29/03 Memo).” (ML031200210)
  - “Pros and Cons on Revising Part 71 for Physical Tests. (Attachment 3 to 04/29/03 Memo).” (ML031200282)
- “Package Performance Study Update.” (ML100290159)

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P. Murray

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DATED July 22, 2024

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