

November 13, 2012

The Honorable Joseph I. Lieberman
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security
and Governmental Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am pleased to report on the actions the NRC has taken in response to the recommendation in the United States Government Accountability Office (GAO) report, GAO-12-797, "Spent Nuclear Fuel: Accumulating Quantities at Commercial Reactors Present Storage and Other Challenges."

GAO recommended that the NRC Chairman direct agency staff to develop a mechanism that allows individuals with appropriate clearances and the need to know to easily identify and access classified studies, to help ensure that institutional knowledge is not lost for storage and disposal of spent nuclear fuel.

In response, the NRC is reviewing the agency's knowledge management plans and internal practices for maintaining and assuring access to classified documents to determine what additional document management measures should be implemented. We are also exploring several alternatives to create an index process to identify classified studies that relate to the safety and security of spent nuclear fuel. The index will be accessible and searchable by appropriate NRC users, and will contain only unclassified information needed to identify and locate the classified studies. The process will first be implemented as a pilot project.

If you have any additional questions, please contact me or Ms. Rebecca Schmidt, Director of the Office of Congressional Affairs, at (301) 415-1776.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Allison M. Macfarlane

cc: Senator Susan M. Collins

Identical letter sent to:

The Honorable Joseph I. Lieberman
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security
and Governmental Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510
cc: Senator Susan M. Collins

The Honorable Darrell Issa
Chairman, Committee on Oversight
and Government Reform
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
cc: Representative Elijah Cummings

The Honorable Eugene L. Dodaro
Comptroller General of the United States
United States Government Accountability Office
441 G Street, NW
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