

December 11, 2013

The Honorable Jeff Sessions  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Sessions:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to your letter of October 24, 2013, urging us to move forward with completion of the Safety Evaluation Report for the proposed geologic repository at Yucca Mountain.

As you know, following the August 13, 2013, decision by the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals, the Commission issued an order requesting that the participants in the suspended adjudication provide their views on how the NRC should continue the licensing process. We received the views of the parties, including the NRC staff, on September 30. The staff also provided us with updated cost estimates to assist in determining how best to move forward with the remaining funds.

On November 18, 2013, the Commission issued an order concerning resumption of the Yucca Mountain licensing process. Among other things, it directed the staff to complete and issue the Safety Evaluation Report and requested that the U.S. Department of Energy prepare the supplemental environmental impact statement that the NRC staff has determined to be necessary to complete its environmental review of the application.

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

Sincerely,

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Allison M. Macfarlane

Identical letter sent to:

The Honorable Jeff Sessions  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable David Vitter  
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 Roger Wicker  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Boozman  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510