

September 26, 2016

The Honorable James M. Inhofe
Chairman, Committee on Environment
and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) appeared before the Committee on Environment and Public Works on April 6, 2016, at the hearing entitled, "Oversight Hearing: The President's FY 2017 Budget Request for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission." From that hearing, you forwarded questions for the hearing record to the Commission. On July 12, 2016, the NRC provided responses to your questions. As a follow-up to Question 1, I committed to you to hold a stakeholder meeting and report on implementation of key outcomes and recommendations from the stakeholder process.

As we committed to do, on July 26, 2016, the Commission held an all-day meeting where the NRC invited a number of external stakeholders to share their perspectives on the NRC's programs and performance. Participants included State and Tribal representatives, non-governmental organizations, industry, organized labor, vendors, academia, and the medical community, as well as a former NRC Chairman and a former NRC Commissioner. At the conclusion of that meeting, the Commission directed the staff to provide an information paper identifying each substantive issue or recommendation raised at the meeting or in any subsequent correspondence to the Commission related to that meeting.

As directed, the NRC staff reviewed the transcript and written comments, and subsequently consolidated all of the recommendations into 18 topic areas relating to the NRC Principles of Good Regulation – Independence, Clarity, Openness, Reliability, and Efficiency. These Principles help focus the agency on safety and security while appropriately balancing the interests of NRC's stakeholders. As part of this in-depth review, the NRC staff assessed: (a) how recommendations have been previously dispositioned; (b) whether current NRC activities are responsive to the recommendation; or (c) the need and plans for additional NRC actions to be responsive to the recommendation. The results of the NRC staff's assessment are reflected in an information paper submitted to the Commission on September 15, 2016, a copy of which I have enclosed to keep you informed of this issue.

After a careful review, NRC staff concluded that "the issues and areas for improvement raised by stakeholders were consistent with ongoing efforts in that topic area, and the concerns raised will be considered in those activities." As such, the NRC staff did not identify any substantive issues or recommendations raised by stakeholders that would require new plans for additional NRC action. I have reviewed the staff's assessment and agree with the staff's conclusions. As such, I do not intend to take any further action aside from continuing to oversee the staff's ongoing efforts described in the paper. However, as the NRC continues its on-going

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work on the issues raised by our stakeholders, I want to assure you that the agency will continue to focus on the issues and maintain open communication with our stakeholders.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact me or Eugene Dacus, Director of the Office of Congressional Affairs at (301) 415-1776.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Stephen G. Burns

Enclosure:
As stated

cc: Senator Barbara Boxer