



CHAIRMAN

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

January 9, 2020

The Honorable John A. Barrasso  
Chairman, 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 this report in accordance with Section 103(d) of the Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act on preparing the licensing process for research and test reactors within the existing regulatory framework. With input from the U.S. Department of Energy, the nuclear industry, a diverse set of technology developers, and other public stakeholders, the NRC assessed the existing regulatory framework with a focus on whether additional Commission action or modification of policy is needed for reviewing and licensing future research and test reactors. As detailed in the enclosed report, the NRC has concluded that it is prepared to review and license new research and test reactors, including prototype plants and demonstration advanced nuclear reactors. The NRC staff will continue to engage stakeholders to ensure that this readiness is maintained.

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 questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "KS", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Kristine L. Svinicki

Enclosure:  
As stated

cc: Senator Thomas R. Carper

**Identical letter sent to:**

The Honorable John A. Barrasso  
Chairman, Committee on Environment  
and Public Works  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510  
cc: Senator Thomas R. Carper

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