



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

CHAIRMAN

March 10, 2022

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Capito:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to your February 7, 2022, letter, regarding the NRC's development of a technology-inclusive, regulatory framework for commercial advanced nuclear reactors, also known as "Part 53." Thank you for recognizing the considerable work by the NRC staff to engage stakeholders during the development of Part 53 and the NRC's necessary independent role in establishing the nation's nuclear safety standards.

I can assure you that the Commission and the NRC staff continue to place a high priority on this rulemaking's technical development and accelerated schedule. The recent extension reflects the benefits of continuing to independently consider stakeholder feedback on the utility of the rule. The extension allows the staff to undertake a number of activities, including developing a more traditional, deterministic alternative option in response to stakeholder feedback (rather than beginning a separate rulemaking to address this issue on a separate schedule) and further developing the Part 53 enhanced probabilistic risk assessment approach. In addition, the NRC continues to engage stakeholders, including the U.S. Department of Energy, the nuclear industry, advanced reactor developers, members of the public, and international counterparts, and assess and incorporate their feedback as appropriate.

We appreciate your continued interest in the NRC's Part 53 rulemaking efforts. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me, or have your staff contact Eugene Dacus, Director of the Office of Congressional Affairs, at (301) 415-1776.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christopher T. Hanson".

Christopher T. Hanson

Identical letter sent to:

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
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 Cory Booker
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510