



CHAIRMAN

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

August 29, 2018

The Honorable Edward J. Markey
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Markey:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to the August 3, 2018, letter from you and your colleagues regarding the agency's draft proposed rule on nuclear power plant decommissioning, which is now before the Commission.

We appreciate and share your interest in ensuring that the NRC develops an effective and efficient regulatory approach for the safe and secure decommissioning of power reactor facilities. The specific issues in your letter—regulation by exemption, public participation and awareness, spent fuel storage, and financial and physical protection—were examined by the NRC staff in developing the proposed rule that is now before the Commission. Your letter has been added to the rulemaking docket as part of the official record of comments on this matter and the Commission will evaluate these issues in our deliberations on the staff's draft proposed rulemaking.

The Commission recognizes that this rulemaking affects important areas of our regulatory infrastructure and is a matter of significant public interest. With this in mind, the NRC staff has already expanded opportunities for public engagement beyond those required under the Administrative Procedure Act, including issuance of an advance notice of proposed rulemaking (November 2015) and a draft regulatory basis (March 2017) for public comment. Over 200 comments were received and considered as the staff prepared the draft proposed rule that is currently before the Commission. The NRC will continue to provide opportunities for public engagement throughout this rulemaking process.

If you have additional 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 blue ink, appearing to read "Kristine L. Svinicki".

Kristine L. Svinicki

Identical letters sent to:

The Honorable Edward J. Markey
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bernard Sanders
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kamala D. Harris
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510