



CHAIRMAN

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

August 27, 2020

Mr. Frank Rusco, Director
Natural Resources and Environment
U.S. Government Accountability Office
441 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20548

Dear Mr. Rusco:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) Report: "Fee-Setting, Billing, and Budgeting Processes Have Improved, but Additional Actions Could Enhance Efforts" (GAO-20-362), dated February 28, 2020. The NRC agrees with the findings and recommendations in the report.

In the report, GAO had two recommendations that the NRC is in the process of implementing. First, the GAO recommended that "[t]he Executive Director for Operations of NRC should ensure relevant NRC program offices develop policy and guidance for when to communicate information on work progress to licensees, such as through communications to licensees at specified timeframes or thresholds." To address this recommendation, the NRC is reviewing its current practice of providing work progress to licensees, as well as to the public, and will develop or revise relevant policies and guidance as appropriate. Second, the GAO recommended that "[t]he Chief Financial Officer of NRC should, in consultation with NRC program offices, develop guidance to ensure NRC staff clearly define what costs—such as project management—are included in its public cost estimates." In response to this recommendation, the NRC will issue guidance on describing the costs that are included in the public cost estimates posted on the NRC's public Web site.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Mr. John Jolicoeur at (301) 415-1642 or by e-mail at John.Jolicoeur@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kristine L. Svinicki".

Kristine L. Svinicki

Identical letter sent to the following recipients, with the exception of the replacement of the point of contact with the Chairman and the Director of the Office of Congressional Affairs:

Mr. Frank Rusco, Director
Natural Resources and Environment
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The Honorable Russell Vought
Director, Office of Management and Budget
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The Honorable Ron Johnson
Chairman, Committee on Homeland
Security and Governmental Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510
cc: Senator Gary C. Peters

The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney
Chairwoman, Committee on Oversight
and Reform
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
cc: Representative James Comer

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
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United States House of Representatives
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cc: Representative Greg Walden

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Chairwoman, Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
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cc: Representative Kay Granger

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
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cc: Senator Patrick Leahy