



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

August 28, 2023

The Honorable Thomas R. Carper
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 responding to your July 14, 2023, letter regarding the NRC staff's draft proposed rule to establish a risk-informed, technology-inclusive regulatory framework for advanced reactors, also known as "Part 53," which is currently under consideration by the Commission.

The Commission continues to place a high priority on the timely establishment of the Part 53 regulatory framework and is actively considering the many important policy issues raised in your letter. The Commission has been actively engaged on this matter since it began development, and since the draft proposed rule was provided to the Commission, we have received extensive feedback from the NRC staff, industry stakeholders, and members of the public. We have heard many of the same concerns expressed in your letter and are actively considering how best to address them.

Once the Commission completes deliberations, we will provide direction to the NRC staff on how to proceed. Based on direction from the Commission, the staff will revise the draft proposed rule and publish it in the *Federal Register* for public comment. The NRC will consider all comments received on the proposed rule and will provide written responses to the comments. The public comment process may also result in additional changes to the draft final rule text prepared for Commission consideration. The NRC is currently working to complete this rulemaking significantly ahead of the Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act required deadline of December 31, 2027.

Thank you for your letter and 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,

Christopher T. Hanson

Identical letter sent to:

The Honorable Thomas R. Carper
Chairman, Committee on Environment
and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Ranking Member, Committee on Environment
and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tammy Duckworth
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chris Coons
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Pete Ricketts
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Deb Fischer
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Cynthia M. Lummis
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Martin Heinrich
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ted Budd
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable James E. Risch
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin Cramer
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Chair, Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.
Ranking Member, Committee on Energy and
Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Michael C. Burgess, M.D.
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Diana DeGette
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert E. Latta
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Doris Matsui
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Brett Guthrie
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kathy Castor
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable H. Morgan Griffith
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John P. Sarbanes
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bill Johnson
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Paul D. Tonko
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Roger F. Wicker
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Gus M. Bilirakis
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tony Cárdenas
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Lindsey O. Graham
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Larry Bucshon, M.D.
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mark Kelly
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Scott H. Peters
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Crapo
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Hudson
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Barrasso, M.D.
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Marc A. Veasey
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tim Walberg
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Joe Manchin III
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ann McLane Kuster
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Lisa Blunt Rochester
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jeff Duncan
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Darren Soto
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Gary Palmer
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kim Schrier
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Neal P. Dunn, M.D.
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Curtis
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Debbie Lesko
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Dan Crenshaw
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kelly Armstrong
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Russ Fulcher
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Diana Harshbarger
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kat Cammack
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Lori Trahan
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Lizzie Fletcher
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Greg Pence
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Joyce, M.D.
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Randy K. Weber
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Troy Balderson
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable August Pfluger
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mariannette Miller-Meeks, M.D.
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jay Obernolte
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515