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ONE HUNDRED FOURTEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515–6115
Majority (202) 225–2927
Minority (202) 225–3641

June 9, 2015

Mr. Andy Fitz
Senior Counsel
Office of the Attorney General
State of Washington
1125 Washington Street, S.E
P.O. Box 40100
Olympia, WA 98504

Dear Mr. Fitz:

Thank you for appearing before the Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy on Friday, May 15, 2015, to testify at the hearing entitled "Update on the Current State of Nuclear Waste Management Policy."

Pursuant to the Rules of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the hearing record remains open for ten business days to permit Members to submit additional questions for the record, which are attached. The format of your responses to these questions should be as follows: (1) the name of the Member whose question you are addressing, (2) the complete text of the question you are addressing in bold, and (3) your answer to that question in plain text.

To facilitate the printing of the hearing record, please respond to these questions with a transmittal letter by the close of business on Tuesday, June 23, 2015. Your responses should be mailed to Will Batson, Legislative Clerk, Committee on Energy and Commerce, 2125 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515 and e-mailed to Will.Batson@mail.house.gov.

Thank you again for your time and effort preparing and delivering testimony before the Subcommittee.

Sincerely,

John Shimkus
Chairman
Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy

cc: The Honorable Paul Tonko, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy

Attachment

Additional Questions for the Record

The Honorable John Shimkus

1. As Congress moves forward to address the logjam associated with nuclear waste management policy, how can we protect the taxpayer to assure that total lifecycle system costs, including transportation, are not increased? What are some key principles to consider?

2. The Nuclear Waste Policy Act codified the principle of "linkage," in which an interim storage facility cannot be licensed prior to the licensing of a permanent repository. This concept assures that interim storage facilities will not become a "de facto" permanent repository. Do you agree with this principle?

   A. As noted, the current law prohibits the license of an interim site until a repository is licensed. Do you have additional suggestions as to how this process could be modified to provide for concurrent development as part of a nuclear waste management system?

   B. What sort of stipulations would be required to assure a permanent repository would be constructed? For example, do you support a maximum capacity limit on a consolidated interim storage site?

   C. Do you support economic benefits and incentives for states and communities that offer to host an interim storage site?

3. The Eddy Lea Energy Alliance recently proposed constructing an interim storage facility in Southeastern New Mexico. New Mexico Senator Martin Heinrich said, "I cannot support establishing an interim storage facility until we are sure that there will be a path forward to permanent disposal."

   A. Is the lack of progress on Yucca Mountain hampering our ability to move forward on interim storage?

   B. Would an expeditious review of the Yucca License application provide more certainty for interim storage stakeholders?