

ONE HUNDRED FOURTEENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

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November 19, 2015

Mr. Michael Weber
Deputy Executive Director of Operations
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
11555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Mr. Weber:

Thank you for appearing before the Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy on Wednesday, October 28, 2015, to testify at the hearing entitled "Update on Low-level Radioactive Waste Disposal Issues."

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 Wednesday, December 3, 2015. Your responses should be mailed to Will Batson, Legislative Clerk, Committee on Energy and Commerce, 2125 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 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. In the hearing, you indicated that the NRC evaluated in the 1980s whether an integrated or coordinated rulemaking was needed and concluded it wasn't necessary. Given the substantive comments regarding this issue in the Part 61 rulemaking docket, will NRC re-evaluate the prior determination? If not, why not?

2. Mr. Weber, have you completed an analysis of the technical basis for adding Greater Than Class C (GTCC) and transuranic (TRU) waste to the Part 61 rulemaking?
 - A. If you do not have a technical basis for these wastes, how can you determine the timing for the rulemaking?

 - B. What are the key technical considerations in expanding Part 61 to include these wastes?

3. The NRC is considering significant changes to Part 61 requirements for disposal of depleted uranium. Given the downturn in nuclear fuel markets that continues after the 2011 events at Fukushima, plans for a number of new uranium enrichment projects licensed by the NRC – Areva's Eagle Rock project, Centrus' American Centrifuge plant, GE's Global Laser Isotope facility, as well as International Isotope's proposed depleted uranium deconversion facility – appear to be on-hold.
 - A. Are the changes to Part 61 still justified if these projects don't materialize?

 - B. Prior to undertaking a rulemaking process, does NRC Staff consider market outlook for the licensees who are impacted the Commission's undertaking?