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

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

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March 7, 2018

Mr. Victor McCree
Executive Director of Operations
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
One White Flint North
11555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852

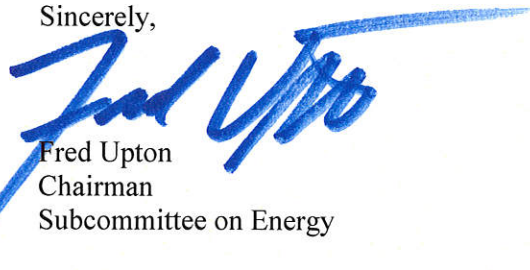
Dear Mr. McCree:

Thank you for appearing before the Subcommittee on Energy on February 6, 2018, to testify at the hearing entitled "DOE Modernization: Advancing the Economic and National Security Benefits of America's Nuclear Infrastructure."

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. To facilitate the printing of the hearing record, please respond to these questions with a transmittal letter by the close of business on Wednesday, March 21, 2018. Your responses should be mailed to Kelly Collins, Legislative Clerk, Committee on Energy and Commerce, 2125 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515 and e-mailed in Word format to kelly.collins@mail.house.gov.

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

Sincerely,



Fred Upton
Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy

cc: The Honorable Bobby L. Rush, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Energy

Attachment

Attachment—Additional Questions for the Record

The Honorable Fred Upton

1. High-assay LEU, uranium enriched at higher levels than what is typically available in the current commercial market, may be needed for advanced reactor technology developers to ultimately deploy and commercialize their reactor designs. A recent industry survey of 16 leading U.S. advanced reactor technology developers found the lack of access to high-assay LEU ranks at the top of policy concerns that require resolution to move forward with those projects. Has the NRC considered potential policy challenges associated with this material?
2. DOE, in partnership with the Electric Research Power Institute and other industry partners, is working to develop what is known as “Accident Tolerant Fuels” or ATF. ATF could be a game changer for existing nuclear power plants by significantly reducing the risk of an emergency release and therefore result in corresponding reductions in regulatory requirements. How is NRC considering potential technical and policy issues that may have to be address to qualify these fuels?
3. Advances in super computing and application of new modeling techniques provide great opportunity to drive innovation and develop new nuclear technologies, particularly to help qualify new nuclear fuels. However, to realize the full benefits of modeling and simulation, the NRC must be prepared to analyze and accept the data.
 - a. How is NRC considering its level of preparedness to analyze and accept modeling and simulation for fuel qualification?
 - b. What are some of the obstacles NRC faces to realize the benefits of advanced computing?
4. The state of Texas has petitioned the NRC to have the regulatory authority to regulate a potential GTCC disposal site in the State. While NRC regulations require GTCC is disposed of in a geologic repository, I understand that a Texas company has expressed interest in a near-surface disposal facility. Please provide an update on the status of NRC’s activities relating to GTCC waste disposal.