

January 6, 2017

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

Dear Mr. Trimble:

Thank you for providing the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) with the opportunity to review and comment on the U.S. Government Accountability Office's (GAO) draft report GAO-17-174, "Nuclear Waste: Benefits and Costs Should Be Better Understood Before DOE Commits to a Separate Repository for Defense Waste."

The report recommends that the U.S. Department of Energy comprehensively assess benefits, costs, and schedule for its proposed options, and address key prerequisites needed for the site selection process before engaging potential local communities and embarking on site selection activities. The report discusses NRC's role in regulating potential disposal facilities. The NRC has reviewed the report and has no significant comments for GAO's consideration.

If you have any questions regarding the NRC's response, please contact Mr. John Jolicoeur by phone at (301) 415-1642 or by e-mail at John.Jolicoeur@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Victor M. McCree
Executive Director
for Operations

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