



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

January 7, 2020

The Honorable John A. Barrasso  
Chairman, Committee on Environment and  
Public Works  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Barrasso:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to your letter of November 21, 2019, to the Commission and the Federal Emergency Management Agency regarding the development of emergency preparedness (EP) requirements for advanced nuclear technologies.

On December 17, 2019, the Commission approved the publication of a proposed rule that would address EP for small modular reactors and other new technologies consistent with the requirement of the Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act for the establishment of a risk-informed regulatory framework to license and oversee such advanced nuclear technologies. The proposed rule would provide the technical basis for nuclear technologies, including advanced nuclear reactors, to scale their emergency planning zone size according to the likelihood and consequences of postulated accidents, consistent with NRC regulations and with the guidelines in the Environmental Protection Agency protective action guides. In the coming weeks, the proposed rule will be published in the *Federal Register* for public comment. We look forward to receiving and addressing comments on the proposed rule as we move forward in the rulemaking process.

I appreciate your interest in these matters. 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,

Kristine L. Svinicki

Identical letter sent to:

The Honorable John A. Barrasso  
Chairman, Committee on Environment and  
Public Works  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Homeland Security  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510