



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

SECRETARY

March 18, 2020

The Honorable Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Merkley:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to your letter of March 10, 2020, to Chairman Svinicki regarding the application by El Paso Electric Company for transfer of its Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station and Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation licenses. We understand your letter to support the existing request that the Commission hold an adjudicatory hearing in this matter.

Because the NRC has received a request for hearing on the license transfer application and your letter relates to subjects that may be raised during any resultant adjudication, the Commission must remain impartial and it would be inappropriate for the Chairman to discuss or comment on your letter at this time.

A copy of your letter and this response will be served on the parties in the Palo Verde proceeding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Annette Vietti-Cook", is positioned above the printed name.

Annette L. Vietti-Cook

Identical letters sent to:

The Honorable Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Edward J. Markey
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bernard Sanders
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510