



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

May 18, 2020

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am transmitting the report for the second quarter in Fiscal Year 2020 in response to the guidance provided in the September 26, 2019, letter from the Committee on Environment and Public Works and Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety. This report reflects information for the reporting period of January 1, 2020, through March 31, 2020.

Enclosure 1 provides a high-level graphical summary illustrating the NRC's overall performance in the areas of licensing, inspection activities, workforce development and management, and financial administration. Enclosure 2 provides the status of specific items of interest, including a summary of the item, the activities planned and accomplished within the reporting period, and projected activities for the next reporting period. Finally, Enclosure 3 provides data and additional information associated with the NRC's licensing activities and regulatory duties.

As you know, on January 31, 2020, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services declared a public health emergency (PHE) for the United States to aid the nation's healthcare community in responding to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). On March 11, 2020, the COVID-19 outbreak was characterized as a pandemic by the World Health Organization. Shortly before the completion date for this reporting period, the NRC began taking precautionary measures in response to COVID-19 to ensure the health and safety of our workforce in accordance with guidance provided by the Federal Government, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as well as State and local authorities. In particular, preparatory activities included notification in a March 28, 2020, letter by the Director of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation to the industry explaining the process by which NRC will be prepared to grant, upon request from individual licensees, exemptions from the work hour controls specified in 10 CFR 26.205(d)(1)-(d)(7) in accordance with the NRC's regulations in 10 CFR 26.9, "Specific exemptions." Other impacts to NRC activities during this reporting period were minimal and, where appropriate, are discussed in the enclosure. Future reports will include additional details on NRC activities resulting from or impacted by the COVID-19 PHE and the agency's response including the step taken to temporarily defer fees to mitigate the financial impact on the regulated community.

The Commission appreciates the ongoing efforts to ensure that this quarterly report meets the Committee's oversight needs and expectations. 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

Enclosures:  
As stated

cc: Senator Thomas R. Carper

**Identical letter sent to:**

The Honorable John A. Barrasso  
Chairman, Committee on Environment  
and Public Works  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510  
cc: Senator Thomas R. Carper

The Honorable Mike Braun  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Clean Air  
and Nuclear Safety  
Committee on Environment and Public Works  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510  
cc: Senator Sheldon Whitehouse

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Chairman, Committee on Energy  
and Commerce  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515  
cc: Representative Greg Walden