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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6175

BETTINA POIRIER, MAJORITY STAFF DIRECTOR
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March 8, 2013

The Honorable Allison M. Macfarlane
Chairman
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
11555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Chairman Macfarlane:

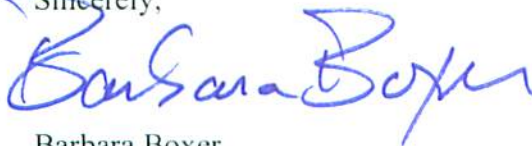
I request that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) provide me with an update on the NRC's progress in implementing the post-Fukushima safety recommendations. March 11, 2013 will mark two years since the earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear meltdowns in Fukushima, Japan. It is vital that U.S. nuclear power plants fully incorporate the lessons learned from this disaster.

In March 2011, the NRC committed to review the causes of the events in Fukushima and make the changes necessary to ensure the safety of the tens of millions of Americans living near reactors in this country. An independent senior-level NRC staff task force issued twelve broad safety recommendations in July 2011, and the NRC has been working to implement them ever since.

Following the events in Fukushima, the Environment and Public Works Committee (EPW) has held seven NRC oversight meetings focused on safety improvements, and next month EPW is scheduled to hold its eighth such meeting. In anticipation of this hearing, I request a report on the NRC's implementation of the post-Fukushima safety upgrades. Please ensure this report includes specific information concerning the current timeline for making final decisions on the remaining safety improvements, the anticipated implementation dates for these requirements, and the expected completion dates when these safety measures will be fully in place at U.S. nuclear plants.

Please provide me with this report by April 12, 2013. If you have questions, please have your staff contact Grant Cope at 202-224-8832. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Barbara Boxer
Chairman
Committee on Environment and Public Works