

ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
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December 15, 2009

The Honorable Greg Jaczko
Chairman
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
11555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD, 20852

Dear Chairman Jaczko:

I write to commend you on the notice issued today¹ that the Commission is soliciting interested parties to respond with an indication of their willingness and ability to conduct an independent study of the health effects associated with living near nuclear reactors. As you know, I have long been concerned that past studies performed and planned to be performed on this subject were fundamentally flawed, and that a new look is needed in order to answer the question using modern scientific techniques and the most up-to-date data.

I urge you to consider, as one of your options, the National Academy of Science's Nuclear and Radiation Studies Board,² which is not authorized to respond to the notice issued today, but which may be a suitable, credible and independent entity capable of performing this important task and which has previous experience assessing related subject matter³.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. It is vitally important that the question of whether there is increased risk of cancer incidence or other health effects associated with living near nuclear reactors be answered by a truly independent body and using a scientifically sound methodology, so that all concerned parties can have confidence in the outcome and any public health judgments that may ensue. Once again, I commend you for your efforts in this area.

Sincerely,



Edward J. Markey
Chairman

Subcommittee on Energy and Environment

¹ United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission, *An Analysis of Cancer Risk in Populations Living Near Nuclear Power Facilities*, Solicitation Number: RES-10-123
(https://www.fbo.gov/index?s=opportunity&mode=form&id=fc60842550d20c232128110a112c42d5&tab=core&_cview=0)

² Nuclear and Radiation Studies Board, (<http://dels.nas.edu/nrsb/index.shtml>)

³ The National Academies, *Beir VII: Health Risks From Exposure to Low Levels of Ionizing Radiation*, (http://dels.nas.edu/dels/rpt_briefs/beir_vii_final.pdf)