# Congress of the United States
## Washington, DC 20515

October 9, 2018

The Honorable Gene L. Dodaro
Comptroller General
U.S. Government Accountability Office
441 G Street N.W.
Washington, DC 20226

Dear Mr. Dodaro:

We write to follow-up on previous Government Accountability Office (GAO) reports relating to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) budget development, financial management, fee-setting process, and budget execution.

Recent GAO reports requested by the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee and House Energy and Commerce Committee identified numerous inconsistencies, a lack of transparency, and inadequate information in NRC's budget and financial management systems and processes. Those GAO reports recommended action to improve NRC's fee-setting process,[1] fee-billing process,[2] budget justification documentation,[3] and workforce planning,[4] among others.

In response to GAO findings and as part of NRC's ongoing efforts to increase organizational management, NRC initiated activities to address organizational deficiencies. For example, NRC's Fees Transformation Initiative identified several changes the agency could make to improve its fee-setting process. Additionally, starting with its budget request for fiscal year 2018, NRC included the agency's actual obligations for prior years to increase transparency on how the agency spends its appropriations.

While NRC has launched some initiatives, it is unclear the extent to which NRC has completed these efforts and the extent to which these actions have resulted in the anticipated process improvements. To assist our assessment of NRC's recent initiatives, we ask you to

---

[1]GAO, *Nuclear Regulatory Commission: Regulatory Fee-Setting Calculations Need Greater Transparency,* GAO-17-232 (Washington, D.C.: February 2017)
[2] GAO, *Nuclear Regulatory Commission: Additional Action Needed to improve Process for Billing Licensees,* GAO-18-318 (Washington, D.C.: March 208)
[3]GAO, *Nuclear Regulatory Commission: Changes Planned to Budget Structure and Justification,* GAO-17-294 (Washington, D.C.: March 2017).
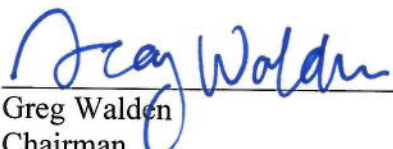[4]GAO, *Strategic Human Capital Management: NRC Could Better Manage the Size and Composition of Its Workforce by Further Incorporating Leading Practices,* GAO-17-233 (Washington, D.C.: April 2017).

undertake a review of recent changes in its planning, budgeting, and financial management activities and address the following:

1. To what extent has NRC implemented all the planned changes to its planning, budgeting, and financial management activities in response to internal initiatives and GAO recommendations?

2. How is the NRC assessing the results achieved from implementing changes to its planning, budgeting, and financial management activities?

3. How do the results compare with NRC's expectations?

4. How have the initiatives impacted NRC licensees and applicants?

5. What additional actions, if any, could NRC take to achieve the goals identified in its internal initiatives for its planning, budgeting, and financial management activities?
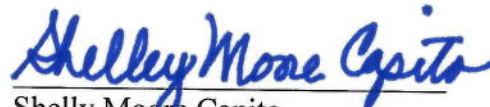
Thank you for your prompt attention to this request. Please work with Mr. Andrew Zach of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee at (202) 224-6176 and Mr. Peter Spencer of the House Energy and Commerce Committee at (202) 225-2927 on the specifics of your examination.

Sincerely,

Greg Walden
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives

John Barrasso
Chairman
Committee on Environment
    and Public Works
U.S. Senate

Fred Upton
Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy
U.S. House of Representatives

Shelly Moore Capito
Chairman
Subcommittee on Clean Air
    and Nuclear Safety
U.S. Senate

Cc:

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.,
Ranking Member, Committee on Energy & Commerce

The Honorable Thomas Carper,
Ranking Member, Committee on Environment and Public Works

The Honorable Bobby Rush,
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Energy

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety