

Mr. James A. Muntz, Vice President
 Nuclear Projects
 Exelon Generation
 200 Exelon Way
 KSA3-N
 Kennett Square, PA 19348

January 12, 2001

Dear Mr. Muntz:

Thank you for your letter of December 5, 2000, regarding the desire of Exelon and its partners to begin exploratory discussions with the NRC staff related to the feasibility of licensing the Pebble Bed Modular Reactor (PBMR) in the U.S. In response to your letter, I have requested the Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES), in cooperation with the licensing offices, to develop a preliminary plan for early interactions with you on the PBMR consistent with the Commission's Advanced Reactor Policy Statement. The purpose of such early interactions would be to become familiar with the PBMR design, its supporting technology and related safety issues with a goal of seeking early resolution of issues fundamental to the PBMR design.

As discussed between Mr. Edward Sproat (Exelon) and Mr. Thomas L. King (NRC/RES), an initial meeting to discuss the PBMR and options for early interactions has been scheduled for January 31, 2001, at NRC-HQ. We look forward to the opportunity to hear about the PBMR and to discuss plans for further interactions.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Ashok C. Thadani, Director, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (301-415-6641).

Sincerely,

/RA/

William D. Travers
 Executive Director
 for Operations

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* Previously concurred.

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J. A. Muntz

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