

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: 08/03/05

EDO CONTROL: G20050520

DOC DT: 07/22/05

FINAL REPLY:

Representative Robert Andrews

TO:

Chairman Diaz

FOR SIGNATURE OF :

** PRI **

CRC NO: 05-0376

Chairman Diaz

DESC:

ROUTING:

Hope Creek Nuclear Reactor

Reyes
Virgilio
Kane
Silber
Dean
Cyr/Burns
Zimmerman, NSIR
Collins, RI
Outlaw, OCA
DOC

DATE: 07/22/05

ASSIGNED TO:

CONTACT:

NRR

Dyer

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

Coordinate response with NSIR and Region I.

Template: SECY-017

E-RIDS: SECY-01

**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET**

Date Printed: Jul 22, 2005 15:16

PAPER NUMBER: LTR-05-0376

LOGGING DATE: 07/22/2005

ACTION OFFICE: EDO

AUTHOR: REP Robert Andrews

AFFILIATION: REP

ADDRESSEE: CHRM Nils Diaz

SUBJECT: Concerns the safety of Hope Creek

ACTION: Signature of Chairman

DISTRIBUTION: RF, OCA to Ack.

LETTER DATE: 07/22/2005

ACKNOWLEDGED No

SPECIAL HANDLING: Commission Correspondence

NOTES:

FILE LOCATION: ADAMS

DATE DUE: 08/05/2005

DATE SIGNED:

EDO --G20050520

ROBERT E. ANDREWS

FIRST DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

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July 22, 2005

The Honorable Nils J. Diaz, Chairman
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Room 18H1
One White Flint North Bldg
11555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852-2738

Dear Honorable Diaz:

I am writing to you today to express my concern with the most recent shutdown of the Hope Creek nuclear reactor. As I'm sure you are aware, there have been several shutdowns at this plant in the past year. I have a few questions that I would like you to address about the safety of Hope Creek.

I understand that nuclear reactors are complex facilities with hundreds of mechanical systems that sometimes fail or break. When this happens, I know that the reactors are shut down as a safety precaution. However, it is the frequency of the problems at Hope Creek that causes me concern. Is the frequency of shutdowns at Hope Creek similar to other nuclear power plants in the U.S.? Moreover, what actions does the NRC take to make sure that these minor problems do not evolve into catastrophic incidents?

Several safety concerns have been raised by the public in response to the merger between Exelon and PSEG. I assume that merger will likely streamline many plant operations at Hope Creek. Exelon has already announced a major restructuring that will result in more than one hundred top level people losing their jobs. What assurances can the NRC give that safety and security will not be diminished as a result of the merger? Also, are there plans for the NRC to perform safety and security tests once the restructuring is complete?

I thank you in advance for your response to these questions. If you have any questions about this request, please contact Dr. Jake Stenzler on my staff at (202) 225-6501.

Sincerely,



Robert Andrews
Member of Congress

REA:jns