

January 12, 2007

Diane Curran
Harmon, Curran, Spielberg, and Eisenberg, LLP
1726 M Street
North West, Suite 600
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Ms. Curran:

I am responding to a request of December 15, 2006, from several external stakeholder groups, that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) extend the public comment period for a petition for rulemaking (PRM) filed by you on behalf of the Massachusetts Attorney General. The letter requested the extension due to the following:

- (1) This rulemaking would set a precedent that would be applied to all other nuclear power plant licensing decisions;
- (2) The rulemaking petition raises technical issues and is accompanied by voluminous technical documents that require careful review;
- (3) There are several major events (elections) and holidays during the comment period which limit the time available for stakeholders to comment.

As you know, the petition was docketed by the NRC on September 19, 2006, and has been assigned Docket No. PRM-51-10. On November 1, 2006 (71 FR 64169), the NRC published a notice of receipt for the petition in the *Federal Register* with a deadline for public comments of January 16, 2007.

In view of the NRC's desire to receive high quality comments from external stakeholders, and recognizing the circumstances outlined in the request for extension, the comment period for PRM 51-10 will be reopened for an additional 60 days. The public comment period deadline is extended from the original January 16, 2007, deadline to March 19, 2007. A notice of the reopening of the comment period will also be published in the *Federal Register* (enclosed).

Sincerely,

/RA/

Annette L. Vietti-Cook

Enclosure: As stated

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

10 CFR Part 51

[Docket No. PRM-51-10]

Diane Curran; Receipt of Petition for Rulemaking;

Reopening of Public Comment Period

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Petition for rulemaking; reopening of public comment period.

SUMMARY: On November 1, 2006 (71 FR 64169), the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) published for public comment a notice of receipt of a petition for rulemaking, dated August 25, 2006, which was filed with the Commission by Diane Curran on behalf of the Massachusetts Attorney General. The petition was docketed by the NRC on September 19, 2006, and has been assigned Docket No. PRM-51-10. On December 15, 2006, several external stakeholder groups requested a 60 day extension of the public comment period owing to the importance of the rulemaking, the voluminous technical documents that require careful review, and the occurrence of major national events (elections) and holidays (Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukkah, and New Years celebrations) during the comment period which limits the time available for stakeholders to comment. The NRC is reopening the comment period on the petition for an additional 60 days from the original January 16, 2007 deadline. The comment period closes on March 19, 2007.

DATE: The comment period has been reopened and now expires on March 19, 2007.

Comments received after this date will be considered if it is practical to do so, but the Commission is able to assure consideration only for comments received on or before this date.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments on this petition by any one of the following methods. Please include *PRM-51-10* in the subject line of your comments. Comments on petitions submitted in writing or in electronic form will be made available for public inspection. Because your comments will not be edited to remove any identifying or contact information, the NRC cautions you against including any information in your submission that you do not want to be publicly disclosed.

Mail comments to: Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, ATTN: Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff.

E-mail comments to: SECY@nrc.gov. If you do not receive a reply e-mail confirming that we have received your comments, contact us directly at 301-415-1966. You may also submit comments via the NRC's rulemaking Web site at <http://ruleforum.llnl.gov>. Address questions about our rulemaking Web site to Carol Gallagher (301) 415-5905; e-mail cag@nrc.gov. Comments can also be submitted via the Federal eRulemaking Portal <http://www.regulations.gov>.

Hand deliver comments to: 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland 20852, between 7:30 am and 4:15 pm Federal workdays. Telephone number 301-415-1966.

Fax comments to: Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission at (301) 415-1101. Publicly available documents related to this petition may be viewed electronically on the public computers located at the NRC's Public Document Room (PDR), Room O1 F21, One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland. The PDR reproduction contractor will copy documents for a fee. Selected documents, including comments, may be viewed and downloaded electronically via the NRC rulemaking Web site at <http://ruleforum.llnl.gov>.

