

September 19, 2008

Mr. Russ L. Sweetsir  
Mayor  
City of Galena  
P.O. Box 149  
Galena, AK 99741-0149

SUBJECT: REVIEW ACTIVITIES DURING FISCAL YEAR 2009 RELATED TO THE  
POTENTIAL SITING OF A "SUPER-SAFE, SMALL AND SIMPLE" (4S)  
REACTOR PLANT AT GALENA, ALASKA

Dear Mr. Sweetsir:

I would like to thank you once again for the letters you wrote to us late last year and apologize for our delay in providing a more definitive response to your request for pre-application interactions with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff on the potential siting of a "Super-Safe, Small and Simple" (4S) reactor plant at Galena, Alaska. As indicated previously, our ability to engage in such activities is limited by evolving resource constraints in the context of competing priorities.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of decisions by the NRC regarding review activities for advanced reactors during fiscal year (FY) 2009. On July 17, 2008, the NRC released a memo from the staff to the Commission dated July 3, 2008, detailing the criteria for including future small, grid-appropriate reactor licensing activities in future budgets of the NRC (ADAMS Accession No. ML0819800440, enclosed).

With the exception of review of the Next Generation Nuclear Plant, the staff's current plans for FYs 2009 and 2010 are to limit interactions with the prospective applicants for grid-appropriate reactors to occasional meetings or other nonresource-intensive activities. As such, any requested work that goes beyond these limitations will be placed on hold.

We nevertheless recognize that some of the white papers that you have asked us to consider involve NRC policy matters that should be clarified to accommodate the future licensing and regulation of grid-appropriate reactors in general. To the extent resources are available to address the policy issues raised by the white papers, we will consider the approaches discussed in those papers. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Dr. Donald E. Carlson at (301) 415-0109.

Sincerely,

***/RA by William D. Reckley for/***

Edward T. Baker, Director  
Advanced Reactor Project  
Office of New Reactors

Project No.: 760

Enclosure:  
As stated

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