

April 12, 2010

Senator Pete V. Domenici  
Dr. Richard A. Meserve  
Bipartisan Policy Center  
1225 Eye Street NW, Suite 1000  
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Senator Domenici and Dr. Meserve:

Thank you for responding to my request that the Bipartisan Policy Center (BPC) conduct a review of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) licensing process for new reactors. This is exactly the type of high-quality, thorough analysis that I had hoped to receive and for which the BPC is known. Such a comprehensive review would not have been possible without your strong leadership, the hard work of the BPC staff, and the BPC's dedication to improving public policy. This independent report will be of great assistance to the NRC as it assesses and seeks to strengthen its licensing review process.

I am pleased that the BPC assessment recognizes and confirms the high-quality work of the NRC staff in conducting thorough and timely reviews of license applications. The agency has a strong commitment to continuous improvement, and I fully support your recommendation for the NRC to ensure that lessons learned from the first round of applications enhance any subsequent reviews. Moving forward, I plan to ask the NRC staff to conduct a lessons-learned analysis after the first combined license review has been completed. As part of this review, I also intend to ask the staff to develop policy proposals for Commission consideration that would strengthen the review process based on the lessons learned.

I sincerely appreciate the efforts of the BPC in conducting this valuable study. The insights and recommendations provided will be invaluable in improving the new reactor licensing process.

Sincerely,

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Gregory B. Jaczko