



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

March 15, 2010

The Honorable Jim DeMint
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator DeMint:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated February 2, 2010, regarding Aiken Technical College's application for Nuclear Education Grant funding.

Within the NRC, the appropriate program and contract offices are carefully reviewing the grant applications for this year. Each application will be evaluated for its ability to support courses, studies, training, curricula, and disciplines relevant to the nuclear industry via a sustainable educational infrastructure. The NRC anticipates awarding funds by April 2010. We will inform your office if an award is made to any colleges or universities in South Carolina.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rebecca Schmidt".

Rebecca L. Schmidt, Director
Office of Congressional Affairs

JIM DEMINT
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United States Senate

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February 2, 2010

Ms. Kathleen Shino
Senior Grants Specialist
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

RE: CFDA No. 77.008


Dear Ms. Shino,

I have recently been made aware of the application submitted by Aiken Technical College to the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission to secure funding through the United States Regulatory Commission Nuclear Scholarship/Fellowship Program. This group seeks to provide scholarship funding for 15 students enrolled in the Radiation Protection Program for the 2010-2011 academic year.

Aiken Technical College (ATC) currently addresses the documented regional demand for Radiological Protection Technologists (RPT). Their associate degree and certificate program qualifies RPT's for entry-level positions at NRC-licensed nuclear power stations, DOE facilities, and medical treatment facilities. ATC is currently at capacity with 100 RPT students. ATC's demographics are as follows: 46% of the student population is between the ages of 20-29, 65% female population, 31% minority, and 74% of our students are low income. The proposed scholarship funding program will enable ATC to enroll more students that are academically prepared and those that are low-income, minority, female, displaced workers returning for career retraining, therefore addressing the current and anticipated regional workforce needs and positioning the region for further nuclear industry development.

It is my hope that the most competitive and deserving projects in South Carolina and around the country would be funded so this program serves true national priorities. I respect the competitive process by which these funds are awarded and request that this project be given fair consideration, according to your governing rules and regulations. Thank you in advance for your review of this application. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Jennifer Hightower in my Charleston Office at 843-727-4525.

Sincerely,



Jim DeMint
United States Senator

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