

May 24, 2010

Ms. Gail B. Knight  
121 Cambridge Court  
Frankfort, IL 60423

Dear Ms. Knight:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am writing you regarding your April 6, 2010, email addressed to Chairman Jaczko, in which you suggest that the Federal Government should own new nuclear power plants. The plants should be sited in the ocean, and they should make use of tunnels for access to the plants from the shore and for placement of their spent fuel. You requested an appointment to present your ideas to NRC staff.

The NRC was created as an independent agency in 1974. The NRC's overall responsibility is to regulate the civilian use of nuclear material to ensure the protection of the public health and safety. Its main regulatory functions are to establish standards and regulations, issue licenses for nuclear facilities and users of nuclear materials, and inspect facilities and users of nuclear materials to ensure compliance with the requirements. Consistent with this responsibility, the NRC does not provide consultative services to applicants or licensees nor does it design, construct, or own nuclear power plants. Accordingly, we are unable to agree to your request. The NRC recognizes the public's interest in the safe regulation of nuclear activities and provides opportunities for citizens and stakeholders to participate in meetings and regulatory proceedings, to ask questions about nuclear regulation, and to make their opinions known. Information about the NRC's mission, the licensing process for new reactors, and opportunities for public involvement can be found at <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/new-reactors.html> and <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/nuregs/brochures/br0164/r5/>.

Thank you for your interest in nuclear power regulation. I hope that this information is useful to you. If you have questions, please contact Mr. Frank Akstulewicz, Deputy Director for Licensing Operations at (301) 415-1199, or via-email at [Frank.Akstulewicz@nrc.gov](mailto:Frank.Akstulewicz@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

David B. Matthews, Director  
Division of New Reactor Licensing  
Office of New Reactors

Ms. Gail B. Knight  
121 Cambridge Court  
Frankfort, IL 60423

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Sincerely,

David B. Matthews, Director  
Division of New Reactor Licensing  
Office of New Reactors

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