

December 22, 2010

The Honorable Robert F. McDonnell
Governor of Virginia
Chairman, Southern States Energy Board
6325 Amherst Court
Norcross, Georgia 30092

Dear Chairman McDonnell:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am pleased to provide the NRC's response to your November 16, 2010, letter regarding nuclear energy expansion. In your letter, you urged the NRC to provide direction and support necessary to ensure the success of the Loan Guarantee Program for nuclear plants.

I appreciate your interest in this program and have forwarded your letter to the Secretary of Energy. Since the Congress directed the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the Office of Management and Budget to manage and administer this program, the NRC has no direct role in the loan guarantee program. An applicant for a U.S. commercial nuclear power plant project that applies for a loan under the loan guarantee program must, as one part of the conditional loan guarantee agreement, demonstrate to DOE that it has fulfilled the NRC's regulatory requirements for constructing and operating the plant.

Please contact me for any additional information you may need on this or any other issue.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Gregory B. Jaczko

Identical letter sent to:

The Honorable Robert F. McDonnell
Governor of Virginia
Chairman, Southern States Energy Board
6325 Amherst Court
Norcross, Georgia 30092

The Honorable Steve Beshear
Governor of Kentucky
Member of the Southern States Energy Board
6325 Amherst Court
Norcross, Georgia 30092

The Honorable Haley Barbour
Governor of Mississippi
Member of the Southern States Energy Board
6325 Amherst Court
Norcross, Georgia 30092

The Honorable Mike Beebe
Governor of Arkansas
Member of the Southern States Energy Board
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The Honorable Jay Nixon
Governor of Missouri
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The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Governor of Georgia
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