

March 30, 2011

Ms. Tammy Jones
10490 Highway 95
Payette, Idaho 83661

Dear Ms. Jones:

Thank you for your letter dated February 10, 2011 in which you stated your concerns with regard to the construction of a nuclear power plant in Payette County. It is important that citizens stay involved and remain cognizant of the regulated activities.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has specific regulations concerning the siting of nuclear power plants in the vicinity of known active earthquake faults. Providing a license application is submitted to the NRC for a nuclear power plant in Payette County, important regulatory steps are taken to determine the level of seismicity associated with the particular fault and the overall level of seismicity of the area. With this information, the licensing staff can examine the application to ensure compliance with specific portions of the Federal regulation for licensing a nuclear power plant. Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulation*, Part 52 and Part 100.23, with Regulatory Guide 1.208, "A Performance-Based Approach to Define the Site-Specific Earthquake Ground Motion", describe the requirements or provide the application guidance, and contain specific information about the siting of nuclear power plants and addressing the issue of siting in the area of known active faults.

The cited documents describe how a nuclear power plant can be designed for an area in which there are known fault lines. The staff takes precautions to be certain that a plant is carefully designed with the known information in mind and recognizing the uncertainties in that information.

My organization would not be agency lead for the review of any proposed nuclear power plant license application in your area. We are responsible for the development of information and tools that support the agency's review of nuclear power plant license applications. Nevertheless, if you should have any other questions, please contact me at Michael.Case@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Michael Case, Director
Division of Engineering
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

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Michael Case, Director
Division of Engineering
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

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