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OFFICE OF SECRETARY
RULEMAKINGS AND
ADJUDICATIONS STAFF

Via Electronic Mail

July 26, 2011

Annette L. Vietti-Cook, Secretary
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001
Attention: Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff

Subject: NRDC's Petition For Rulemaking to revise 10 C.F.R. § 50.63.

Dear Madam Secretary:

Pursuant to 10 C.F.R. § 2.802, the Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc. ("NRDC") hereby petitions the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission ("NRC") to institute a rulemaking to amend the regulations applicable to nuclear facilities licensed under 10 C.F.R. § 50, § 52 and other applicable regulations.

The rationale and the bases for this petition can be found in the NRC Staff report, Charles Miller, et al, "Recommendations for Enhancing Reactor Safety in the 21st Century: The Near Term Task Force Review of Insights from the Fukushima Dai-ichi Accident," SECY-11-0093, July 12, 2011. We look forward to providing NRC with additional technical support for this petition after this petition has been accepted and docketed.

Please do not hesitate to contact us at (202) 289-6868 if you have any questions. NRDC appreciates your prompt consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Geoffrey H. Fettus
Senior Project Attorney

Christopher E. Paine
Director, Nuclear Program

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The Honorable Gregory B. Jaczko, Chairman
The Honorable George Apostolakis
The Honorable William D. Magwood, IV
The Honorable William C. Ostendorff
The Honorable Kristine L. Svinicki

Proposed Actions

NRDC requests that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission ("NRC") institute a rulemaking proceeding applicable to nuclear facilities licensed under 10 C.F.R. § 50, § 52 and other applicable regulations to revise 10 C.F.R. § 50.63 to require each operating and new reactor licensee to (1) establish a minimum coping time of 8 hours for a loss of all AC power, (2) establish the equipment, procedures, and training necessary to implement an "extended loss of all AC" coping time of 72 hours for core and spent fuel pool cooling and for reactor coolant system and primary containment integrity as needed, and (3) preplan and prestage offsite resources to support uninterrupted core and spent fuel pool cooling, and reactor coolant system and containment integrity as needed, including the ability to deliver the equipment to the site in the time period allowed for extending coping, under conditions involving significant degradation of offsite transportation infrastructure associated with significant natural disasters.

Rationale for the Rulemaking Petition

The rationale for this rulemaking petition is found in the NRC Staff report, Charles Miller, et al, "Recommendations for Enhancing Reactor Safety in the 21st Century: The Near Term Task Force Review of Insights from the Fukushima Dai-ichi Accident," SECY-11-0093, July 12, 2011. See particularly, Section 4.2.1, pp. 32-39 regarding the enhancement of the ability of nuclear power plants to deal with the effects of prolonged SBO conditions at single and multiunit sites without damage to the nuclear fuel in the reactor or spent fuel pool and without the loss of reactor coolant system or primary containment integrity.

Statement of Interest

NRDC is a national non-profit membership environmental organization with offices in Washington, D.C., New York City, San Francisco, Chicago, Los Angeles and Beijing. NRDC has a nationwide membership of over one million combined members and activists. NRDC's activities include maintaining and enhancing environmental quality and monitoring federal agency actions to ensure that federal statutes enacted to protect human health and the environment are fully and properly implemented. Since its inception in 1970, NRDC has sought to improve the environmental, health, and safety conditions at the nuclear facilities licensed by NRC and its predecessor agency.