

August 23, 2011

The Honorable Edward J. Markey
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Markey:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to your letter of July 14, 2011, regarding the applicability of the recommendations of the NRC Near-Term Japan Task Force. Your specific question was whether it is the Commission's intention to ensure that any safety requirements adopted in response to the Fukushima events would be applicable to all commercial nuclear power plants, regardless of when the construction permits for those plants were issued.

Please be assured, subject to approval by the Commission, any new regulations or orders based upon insights learned from the Fukushima events would be applied to all U.S. plants, as applicable. Any such new requirements would be separate from the provisions of the General Design Criteria (GDC) for a given facility and not be affected by any earlier Commission action that addressed the applicability of the GDC. The purpose in promulgating the GDC was not to add new requirements for reactor designs but to describe more clearly the Commission's requirements.

If you have any further questions or need additional information, please contact me or Ms. Rebecca Schmidt, Director of the Office of Congressional Affairs, at (301) 415-1776.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Gregory B. Jaczko