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OFFICE OF SECRETARY
RULEMAKINGS AND
ADJUDICATIONS STAFF

The Honorable Jason Altmire
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Altmire:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to your letter of July 7, 2011, expressing your interest in the rulemaking on design certification for the Westinghouse AP1000 and urging us to complete our review to allow the timely construction of planned AP1000 plants.

Please be assured that the NRC is working diligently to complete the AP1000 design certification rulemaking. As you suggest, the agency is focused on assuring that the proposed design meets all of our safety requirements. Now that the NRC has received the final revision to the Westinghouse application, the agency is developing the final schedule for completing its rulemaking efforts.

I share your views that our review process must be transparent so that the public has a clear understanding of the basis supporting any licensing or certification decision. To that end, NRC staff is working to document the closure of any remaining technical issues before the agency moves forward with its final rule, and prepare responses to public comments received on the proposed AP1000 amendment. The public comment period for the proposed rule recently closed and the agency received over 13,500 comments. Additionally, the Commission recently received the recommendations of the Near-Term Task Force following the events in Japan. The Commission is currently deliberating the next steps in light of these recommendations, which include several insights related to new reactors.

I believe that the ongoing agency review of the AP1000 will be both timely and thorough as our staff determines whether the design will provide the necessary level of protection to public health and safety and common defense and security. If you have any questions, please contact me or Ms. Rebecca Schmidt, Director of the Office of Congressional Affairs, at (301) 415-1776.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Gregory B. Jaczko

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Identical letters sent to:

The Honorable Jason Altmire
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mark S. Critz
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mike Doyle
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mike Kelly
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Tim Murphy
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Joe Pitts
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Pat Toomey
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510