

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

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USNRC

July 7, 2011

August 25, 2011 (10:20 am)

Hon. Gregory B. Jaczko  
Chairman  
NRC Commissioners  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

OFFICE OF SECRETARY  
RULEMAKINGS AND  
ADJUDICATIONS STAFF

Dear Chairman Jaczko and NRC Commissioners:

We write to express our keen interest in the rulemaking on design certification for the Westinghouse AP1000. As you complete your deliberations, we believe that safety, without question, is of the utmost priority. In addition, ensuring a transparent review process is critical to assure full public acceptance. It is our hope that the rulemaking process can be completed in a timely manner to ensure continued American leadership in the civilian nuclear energy industry.

The AP1000 design is likely the most closely scrutinized and independently verified and tested nuclear energy plant in history. The AP1000 plant builds on Westinghouse's pedigree of safe operations, incorporating innovative features such as passive safety and core containment, making the design far safer than the current Nuclear Regulatory Commission regulation require.

As you know, the AP1000 is the new plant technology of choice in the U.S. and throughout the world. Four plants are underway in China, with 50 AP1000s expected to be operational or under construction by 2020. In the U.S., 14 of the approximately 25 announced new plants will be AP1000s, including the only four on which pre-construction activity has begun. This is an opportunity for the U.S. to retain international leadership in the civilian nuclear energy sector, which translates into thousands of U.S. jobs in engineering, construction, plant operations, nuclear energy services, and a host of professions and vocations in the supply chain. In Pennsylvania, there are more than 7,000 employees at Westinghouse and in other nuclear energy supply chain companies.

In these challenging economic times as our nation grapples to find balanced policy approaches to spur job creation and address environmental stewardship, the AP1000 provides a ready opportunity to address our nation's most pressing challenges. However, we must be mindful that while the AP1000 represents U.S. innovation and technological leadership, the civilian nuclear energy industry is a competitive industry, led by foreign government-owned companies seeking to take U.S. market share.

With all these factors in mind – the utmost being safety – we urge you to complete your review to allow the timely construction of planned AP1000 plants.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

  
Rep. Jason Altmire

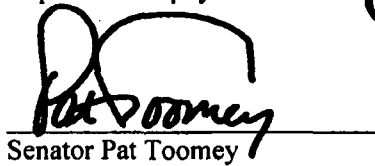
  
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Rep. Mike Doyle

  
Rep. Mike Kelly

  
Rep. Tim Murphy

  
Rep. Joe Pitts

  
Senator Pat Toomey

  
Senator Robert P. Casey, Jr.