



October 28, 2011 (2:30 pm)

OFFICE OF SECRETARY  
RULEMAKINGS AND  
ADJUDICATIONS STAFF

October 25, 2011  
The Honorable Greg Jaczko  
Chairman  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
11555 Rockville Pike  
Rockville, MD 20852

Re: AP1000 Design Certification, Docket ID: NRC-2010-0131

Dear Chairman Jaczko:

On behalf of Green America and our members, I write to strongly urge the Commission to immediately suspend rulemaking for the Westinghouse AP1000 nuclear reactor design certification. We expressed our initial concerns in a May 2011 letter to the Commission and are contacting you again as new concerns emerge. It is clear from statements from engineers and other experts that the new reactor poses significant safety concerns – most recently new concerns regarding the turbine building design.

Founded in 1982, Green America is a national membership organization that works to harness economic power—the strength of consumers, investors, businesses, and the marketplace—to create a socially just and environmentally sustainable society. Our 150,000 individual members and 4,000 business members are deeply concerned about our nation's energy needs and the importance of securing safe, renewable energy sources. Clearly, creating a clean energy economy, that protects public and environmental health, must be a national priority.

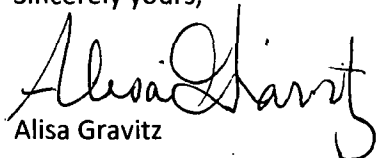
In the wake of the Fukushima nuclear tragedy earlier this year, the fact that a new reactor design is moving forward should require greater scrutiny and caution than ever. We are concerned about an October 3 “notice of violation” issued by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff which affirmed potential flaws related to calculations of the reactor shield's inability to withstand the impact of aircraft. We understand that the October 5 target date for the Commissioners' receipt of full documentation on the reactor was missed, with no public explanation about the schedule slippage, and that documentation was finally passed to the Commission on October 21. New information on the turbine building, namely that it is likely too small for the needs required, is further cause for alarm.

Approval of the AP1000 design would have profound implications for human and environmental safety. Safety issues need to drive the Commission's decision-making. Green America supports the petition filed by a dozen environmental organizations to suspend rulemaking on the AP1000 until we have definitive analysis of the Fukushima nuclear disaster.

(continued)

In closing, Green America urges the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to suspend rulemaking on the AP1000 nuclear reactor design and to await the full findings on the Fukushima nuclear crisis so that they can inform our nation's nuclear policies going forward. We owe this to our citizens and future generations.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alisa Gravitz". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Alisa Gravitz  
Executive Director