

April 3, 2012

Thomas F. O'Brien
President
Newburyport City Council
Newburyport City Hall
60 Pleasant Street
P.O. Box 550
Newburyport, MA 01950

SUBJECT: SEABROOK NUCLEAR POWER STATION

Dear Mr. O'Brien and Council Members:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to your letter of March 12, 2012, to Chairman Gregory B. Jaczko in which you requested that the NRC require Seabrook Nuclear Power Station's owner/operator to repair the concrete and abate the groundwater infiltration before considering relicensing the reactor. You also enclosed a unanimous resolution of the City Council to this effect.

To the extent that your letter requests that the Commission halt the relicensing of Seabrook, the Commission cannot respond. Under Commission regulations, the Commission has an adjudicatory role in the Seabrook license renewal proceeding. Matters related to Seabrook's license renewal application are currently pending before an Atomic Safety and Licensing Board. Additional matters could come before the Commission in its adjudicatory capacity in the future. Therefore, it would be inappropriate for the Commission to comment on your request to halt relicensing of Seabrook.

To the extent your letter raises concerns about assessment of, repair, and aging management of the concrete degradation at Seabrook, I am referring your letter to the technical staff to provide a response.

Please be assured that should information at any time show that there is a basis to question the continued safe operation of Seabrook, the NRC will take appropriate action as part of the agency's ongoing safety oversight.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Andrew L. Bates
Acting Secretary of the Commission