



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

May 24, 2012

OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY

Joe Story
Newbury Board of Selectmen
Town Hall, 25 High Road
Newbury, Massachusetts 01951

Dear Mr. Story and Board Members:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to your letter of April 24, 2012, to Chairman Gregory B. Jaczko in which you request that the NRC halt the review process of the Seabrook Station license renewal application based upon knowledge of new information that concerns the public safety of the citizens and businesses of the Town of Newberry.

To the extent that your letter requests that the Commission halt the relicensing of Seabrook, the Commission cannot respond. The relicensing of the Seabrook Station, Unit 1 is the subject of a current adjudication before an Atomic Safety and Licensing Board. I must advise that under agency regulations, the Commission has an appellate role in proceedings commenced before its Atomic Safety and Licensing Boards. Because of that role, I trust that you will understand that the Commissioners must remain impartial during the pendency of a case, whether it is before a Licensing Board or on appeal to the Commission. I am referring your concerns to the NRC staff.

A copy of your letter and this response, as well as a response of the NRC staff, when issued, will be served on the participants in the Seabrook License Renewal proceeding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Annette L. Vietti-Cook".

Annette L. Vietti-Cook
Secretary of the Commission

cc: Seabrook Service List