



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION I**
2100 RENAISSANCE BOULEVARD, SUITE 100
KING OF PRUSSIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19406-2713

June 26, 2012

Mr. Henry Richenburg
Chairman, Board of Selectmen
Town of Salisbury
5 Beach Road
Salisbury, MA 01952

Dear Mr. Richenburg:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to the letter you wrote on behalf of the Town of Salisbury Board of Selectmen, dated May 21, 2012. Specifically, you expressed concerns regarding the concrete degradation noted at Seabrook Station due to an Alkali-Silica Reaction (ASR), and urged the agency to take steps to fully address the matter to ensure the safety of the public in the future.

As indicated in your letter, the NRC has been conducting inspections, performing technical reviews, and keeping our public stakeholders informed of our evaluations and assessments of this issue. Additionally, on April 23, 2012, the NRC held a public meeting with NextEra at our NRC headquarters office in Rockville, MD to further discuss this issue. The NRC formally documented the commitments made by the licensee during that meeting in a Confirmatory Action Letter (CAL) (attached) issued on May 16, 2012. The actions included submittal of NextEra's (1) plans to monitor/manage the ASR issue, (2) evaluation and root cause reports, and (3) corrective action plans. Several of these actions have been submitted to the NRC and are currently being reviewed and assessed. The CAL will remain in effect until the NRC has concluded that all actions listed in the CAL have been satisfactorily completed.

I assure you that the NRC is thoroughly evaluating this technical issue and will continue to do so until we are satisfied that the licensee fully understands, thoroughly assesses and corrects the problem. This includes NRC inspection oversight to ensure effective monitoring and corrective actions. We've also communicated to the licensee that the license renewal schedule has and will continue to be impacted because no decision can be made until the extent of the longer-term implications of the concrete degradation are sufficiently understood by the licensee. The NRC recently documented this decision in a Safety Evaluation Report (SER) issued to the licensee on June 8, 2012.

We believe the NRC's ongoing actions in response to this issue appropriately address the four requests listed in your letter. Additionally, in our continuous effort to keep our public stakeholders informed, the NRC intends to hold another public meeting at a location near Seabrook Station to specifically address the concrete degradation issue. The date for that meeting will be determined after the staff has had an opportunity to fully evaluate the information submitted by the licensee in response to the CAL. The NRC will issue a public meeting notice when that meeting has been scheduled.

Town of Salisbury
Board of Selectmen

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Thank you for your interest in this matter. The agency certainly shares your concern with ensuring the safety of the Seabrook Station and we will be carefully evaluating the concrete degradation concerns, and keeping the public and governmental officials informed. If you have further questions, please feel free to contact Ms. Nancy McNamara, Regional State Liaison Officer at (610) 337-5337.

Sincerely,

/RA/

William M. Dean
Regional Administrator

Enclosure:
As stated

Thank you for your interest in this matter. The agency certainly shares your concern with ensuring the safety of the Seabrook Station and we will be carefully evaluating the concrete degradation concerns, and keeping the public and governmental officials informed. If you have further questions, please feel free to contact Ms. Nancy McNamara, Regional State Liaison Officer at (610) 337-5337.

Sincerely,

/RA/

William M. Dean
Regional Administrator

Enclosure:
As stated

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