



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

September 6, 2012

Ms. Carrie Bodnar  
[HOME ADDRESS  
DELETED UNDER 10 CFR  
2.390(a)]

Subject: Hydraulic Fracturing Concerns

Dear Ms. Bodnar:

This letter responds to your letter dated July 25, 2012, to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), Region I, regarding the possible impacts of hydraulic fracturing (fracking) close to your home and specifically at Beaver Valley Nuclear Power Plant. The activities associated with fracking are not regulated by the NRC. The environmental impact from fracking and specifically from the "Little Blue Run Coal Ash Impoundment" are the responsibility of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

Beaver Valley Nuclear Power Plant is designed to withstand the effects of earthquakes and flooding. Earthquakes that have been caused by the fracking process have historically had little or no effect on well engineered structures such as nuclear power plants. If new research were conducted (for example by the U. S. Geological Survey) that showed that fracking could create larger earthquakes, the NRC has processes that would allow us to evaluate our conclusions based upon that new information. For more information concerning seismic issues, please view the following NRC web page: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/fact-sheets/fs-seismic-issues.html>

We have discussed your concerns regarding fracking with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP). The PA DEP Office of Oil and Gas Management is the primary regulator of the oil and gas industry in Pennsylvania. The waste material from the fracking production process referred to as "brine," can contain non-Atomic Energy Act (AEA) radioactive materials such as radon and diffuse forms of radium. These materials are typically regulated as part of the gas and oil extraction oversight conducted by the Office of Oil and Gas Management. Certain uses are also regulated by the PA DEP as non-AEA radioactive materials under the Commonwealth's radioactive materials programs. The (NRC) does not have regulatory authority over non-AEA radioactive materials.

The following individuals in PA DEP can be contacted to obtain additional information regarding hydraulic fracturing activities in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

Scott Perry, Deputy Secretary  
Office of Oil and Gas Management  
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection  
Rachel Carson State Office Building  
P.O. Box 2063  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063  
Phone: (717) 783-9438

Alan Eichler, Manager  
South West District of Oil and Gas Operations  
Office of Oil and Gas Management  
400 Waterfront Drive  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222  
Phone: (412) 442-4024

David J. Allard, CHP, Director  
Bureau of Radiation Protection  
Rachel Carson State Office Bldg.  
P. O. Box 8469  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8469  
Phone: 717-787-2480

In West Virginia, the contact is:

James Martin, Chief  
Office of Oil and Gas  
West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection  
601 57<sup>th</sup> Street, SE  
Charleston, WV 25304-2345  
Phone: (304) 926-0499, Ext. 1654

Thank you for informing us of your concerns. Should you have any additional questions or if we can be of further assistance in this matter, please call me at 610-337-5046.

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Gordon K. Hunegs, Chief  
Projects Branch 6  
Division of Reactor Projects

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P. O. Box 8469  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8469  
Phone: 717-787-2480

The following individual in West Virginia can be contacted for additional information regarding fracking activities in West Virginia:

James Martin, Chief  
Office of Oil and Gas  
West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection  
601 57<sup>th</sup> Street, SE  
Charleston, WV 25304-2345  
Phone: (304) 926-0499, Ext. 1654

Thank you for informing us of your concerns. We believe that we have responded to your questions related to Beaver Valley Nuclear Power Plant. Should you have any additional questions or if we can be of further assistance in this matter, please call me at 610-337-5046.

Sincerely,  
*/RA/*  
Gordon K. Hunegs, Chief  
Projects Branch 6  
Division of Reactor Project

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