

# New England Energy Alliance

December 6, 2013

Allison Macfarlane, Chairman  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Mail Stop O-16G4  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Dear Chairman Macfarlane,

I represent the New England Energy Alliance, a coalition that advocates to ensure the availability, reliability and affordability of energy supplies essential to the region's economic growth and prosperity.

I understand that you recently came to Massachusetts to visit the Pilgrim Station and held a number of meetings to hear from local stakeholders. While I was not able to attend the meetings, I would like to share some of the results of the Alliance's region-wide telephone survey conducted annually by Opinion Dynamics to identify trends in public attitudes that help shape regional energy policies.

According to our latest survey conducted in early May, 2013, a majority (57%) of the region's voters said they favor license renewal of existing nuclear energy plants – a level of support that has remained stable since 2007 when we initiated the annual survey.

While the Alliance does not advocate for specific infrastructure projects, we believe, like the majority of the region's voters, that the need for nuclear energy is compelling. The region's nuclear power plants provide reliable, base-load capacity using a dependable fuel source. The plants also avoid the generation of carbon dioxide emissions and play an important role in attaining greenhouse gas reduction goals.

The region's nuclear plants also provide valuable economic benefits. In Massachusetts, for example, the Pilgrim plant employs approximately 650 highly-skilled workers. Its continued safe operation maintains a significant positive economic impact on the Southeast Massachusetts area, while supplying about 13% of the Commonwealth's electricity needs and contributing hundreds of millions of dollars to the local economy.

The region is also confident about the safe operation of nuclear power plants. In the Alliance's 2012 survey, we asked voters if they were confident of the safety of U.S. nuclear power plants in light of the Fukushima disaster. A super majority (more than 70%) expressed confidence that the plants were as safe and reliable as possible. (Survey results are posted at [www.newenglandenergyalliance.org/about/public\\_opinion.php](http://www.newenglandenergyalliance.org/about/public_opinion.php))

[www.newenglandenergyalliance.org](http://www.newenglandenergyalliance.org)

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With that voter confidence in mind, the Alliance acknowledges the diligence of the U.S. NRC in ensuring public health and safety is maintained and that the plants are held to the highest safety standards possible. The Alliance's support of the region's nuclear energy plants – to include Pilgrim – is contingent upon continued compliance with all NRC safety regulations and achieving exceptional operational standards.

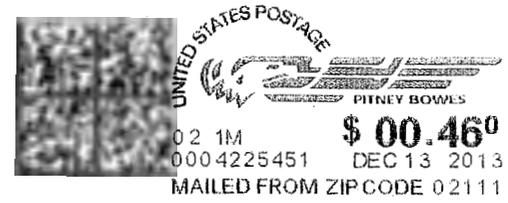
Again, the Alliance appreciates the work of the NRC and for listening to the region's stakeholders. Should you find yourself in the region again, the New England Energy Alliance would be pleased to participate in the conversation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul G. Afonso', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Paul G. Afonso  
Executive Director  
617-856-8430

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