

November 2, 2015

Geoffrey H. Fettus  
Senior Project Attorney, Nuclear Program  
Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc.  
1152 15<sup>th</sup> St. NW, Suite 300  
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Fettus:

I am responding to the petitions for rulemaking (PRM) dated July 26, 2011, that you submitted to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on behalf of the Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc. (Accession Nos. ML11216A237 and ML11216A238 in the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System). The petitions were docketed as PRM-50-97 and PRM-50-98. PRM-50-97 requested NRC amend its regulations applicable to nuclear power plant licensees to require emergency preparedness enhancements for prolonged station blackouts in the areas of communications ability, Emergency Response Data System capability, training and exercises, and equipment and facilities. PRM-50-98 requested similar amendments to require emergency preparedness enhancements for multi-unit events in the areas of personnel staffing, dose assessment capability, training and exercises, and equipment and facilities.

The NRC published notice of its receipt of the petitions in the *Federal Register* on September 20, 2011 (76 FR 58165). You can view the documents associated with the petitions on the Federal rulemaking Web site, <http://www.regulations.gov>, under Docket ID NRC-2011-0189.

The NRC has reviewed the petitions and supporting rationale. For the reasons provided in Section III of the enclosed *Federal Register* notice, the NRC has determined that the issues raised in the petitions have merit, and are being considered during development of the Mitigation of Beyond-Design-Basis Event (MBDBE) rulemaking.

You can monitor action on the proposed MBDBE rule on the Federal rulemaking Web site, <http://www.regulations.gov>, by searching on Docket ID NRC-2014-0240. In addition, the Federal rulemaking Web site allows you to receive alerts when changes or additions occur in a docket folder. To subscribe for alerts: 1) navigate to the docket folder (NRC-2014-0240); 2) click the "Sign up for E-mail Alerts" link; and 3) enter your e-mail address and select how frequently you would like to receive e-mails (daily, weekly, or monthly). The NRC tracks all rulemaking actions on its Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/rulemaking-ruleforum/>.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Annette L. Vietti-Cook

Enclosure:  
*Federal Register* notice