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January 4, 2016

SENATOR PATTY RITCHIE
48TH DISTRICT
OSWEGO, JEFFERSON, ST. LAWRENCE COUNTIES

Honorable Stephen G. Burns
Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Re: Public Comment Period On Decommissioning

Dear Chairman Burns:

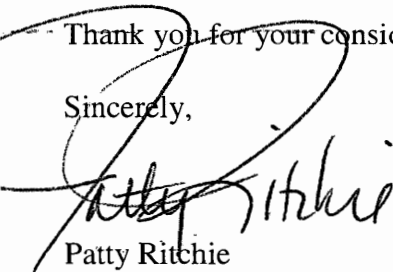
I write to respectfully request that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission extend the public comment period regarding rulemaking related to decommissioning of nuclear plants. This change would give communities and counties impacted by these facilities an adequate opportunity to review the full range of impacts that need to be considered in the event of a potential decommissioning.

As the New York State Senator who represents three of the six nuclear energy plants in the Empire State, I feel the unique nature of nuclear reactors create very unusual interrelationships among the communities and counties that host these complex facilities. Host communities must rely on surrounding governmental agencies for the kind of specialized services needed to handle the various kinds of emergencies that may arise, even after they have been closed. For example, plant closings will lead to the loss of crucial funding for emergency planning and management since the money that funds it is distributed among the seven counties impacted.

With discussions continuing about possible closures of several nuclear plants in New York State, community leaders and emergency planners need time to consider how these interrelationships will be affected by any closing so they can offer advice on the full range of issues that need to be considered in decommissioning.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,


Patty Ritchie
State Senator

cc: David Turner
Kevin Gardner

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Honorable Stephen G. Burns
Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

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