

July 19, 2017

Ms. Beatrice Brailsford  
Nuclear Program Director  
Snake River Alliance  
223 N 6th Street, Suite 317  
Boise, ID 83702

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ON DRAFT REGULATORY BASIS FOR RULEMAKING ON EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FOR SMALL MODULAR REACTORS AND OTHER NEW TECHNOLOGIES RULEMAKING; 82 FR 17768; DOCKET ID NRC-2015-0225

Dear Ms. Brailsford:

By letter dated June 19, 2017 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System Accession No. ML17174A327), Snake River Alliance requested that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC or the Commission) extend the public comment period for the "Draft Regulatory Basis for Rulemaking on Emergency Preparedness for Small Modular Reactors and Other New Technologies" for an additional 90 days.

After careful consideration of your request, the NRC has decided not to grant your request to extend the public comment period for the draft regulatory basis. The comment period established in the *Federal Register* (FR) notice (82 FR 17768) associated with the draft regulatory basis, which was a voluntary initiative by the NRC and not required by the Administrative Procedure Act of 1946, closed on June 27, 2017. As indicated in the notice, comments received after this date will be considered if it is practical to do so, but the Commission is able to ensure consideration only for comments received on or before this date. If we receive your comments by August 15, we will be able to consider your input as we finalize the regulatory basis.

We also note that members of the public will have the opportunity to submit formal public comments on the proposed rule. The current schedule for the rulemaking is to provide the proposed rule to the Commission in October 2018. Based on that date, and if the Commission approves the proposed rule, the staff estimates that the proposed rule would be published for comment in the first half of calendar year 2019.

B. Brailsford

2

The NRC appreciates your involvement in this important rulemaking.

Sincerely,

***/RA – A. Bradford for/***

Francis M. Akstulewicz, Director  
Division of New Reactor Licensing  
Office of New Reactors

cc: Chairman Svinicki  
Commissioner Baran  
Commissioner Burns  
SECY

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