



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

April 30, 2020

Diane D'Arrigo
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SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR SUSPENSION OF ALL U.S. NUCLEAR
REGULATORY COMMISSION RULEMAKINGS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES
INVOLVING PUBLIC COMMENT OR PARTICIPATION

Dear Ms. D'Arrigo:

Thank you for your letter to Chairman Svinicki and Commissioners Baran, Caputo, and Wright, dated April 8, 2020, provided on behalf of 82 organizations requesting postponement of proceedings involving public participation until six months after end of the COVID-19 public health emergency. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) continues to work on behalf of the American people during this time and remains committed to engaging the public in regulatory and policy decisions. The NRC is aware of the challenges caused by the COVID-19 public health emergency and is currently evaluating timeframes for public engagement opportunities on a case-by-case basis. When deciding whether to extend or suspend public engagement schedules, the NRC will consider the unique circumstances of each activity, the specific impacts caused by the COVID-19 public health emergency, and the significance of the activity in meeting the NRC's mission objectives. Changes in schedules for public comment opportunities will be noticed in the *Federal Register* under the associated regulations.gov Docket ID for the applicable item. The NRC's Documents for Public Comment webpage (<https://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/doc-comment.html>) includes a subscription link that can be used to provide alerts when the webpage is updated. The NRC is also considering postponing public meetings or reorganizing them to take advantage of communication technology, such as teleconference, videoconference, webinars, and other means. The NRC's Public Meetings and Involvement webpage (<https://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/public-meetings.html>) will be updated to reflect these changes as applicable. Please feel free to contact John Tappert of my staff at (301) 415-2486 or by email at PublicCommentExtensionCovid.Resource@nrc.gov if you have any questions.

With respect to individual administrative adjudicatory proceedings, requests to suspend or extend proceedings should be addressed to the appropriate presiding officer, consistent with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulation* Part 2. Information about administrative proceedings may be found at <https://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/regulatory/adjudicatory.html>.

Sincerely,

John W. Lubinski, Director
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

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