

August 16, 2011

The Honorable Jason Altmire
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Altmire:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to your letter of July 7, 2011, expressing interest in the rulemaking on design certification amendment for the Westinghouse AP1000 and urging the timely completion of our review.

The NRC is working diligently to complete the AP1000 design certification amendment rulemaking. The NRC staff is focused on assuring that the proposed design meets all of our safety requirements. The NRC has recently received the final revision to the Westinghouse application and will now proceed with the timely completion of the review and rulemaking activities. The agency has developed the final schedule for completing its rulemaking efforts. In October 2011, the NRC staff plans to provide the AP1000 design certification amendment final rule to the Commission for the Commission's consideration.

I agree that our review process must be transparent so that the public has a clear understanding of the basis supporting any licensing or certification decision. To that end, NRC staff is working to document the closure of any remaining technical issues and is preparing responses to public comments received on the proposed AP1000 amendment. During the public comment period for the proposed rule the agency received over 13,500 comments. Additionally, the Commission recently received the recommendations of an NRC task force that was formed following events in Japan. Some of those recommendations apply to new reactors. The Commission is currently deliberating the next steps in light of these recommendations.

The ongoing agency review of the AP1000 will continue in a timely and thorough manner as our staff determines whether the proposed design will provide the necessary level of protection to public health and safety and common defense and security. If you have any questions, please contact me or Ms. Rebecca Schmidt, Director of the Office of Congressional Affairs, at (301) 415-1776.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Gregory B. Jaczko

Identical letters sent to:

The Honorable Jason Altmire
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mark S. Critz
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mike Doyle
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mike Kelly
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Tim Murphy
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Joe Pitts
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Pat Toomey
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510