

August 15, 2011

The Honorable Edward J. Markey
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Markey:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to your letter of March 7, 2011, regarding safety concerns with the AP1000 reactor design. Your letter has been placed in the rulemaking docket for the NRC's recently published proposed rule on the AP1000 Design Certification Amendment (76 FR 10269, February 24, 2011). Your comments will be considered along with all other public comments received. In addition, I have enclosed our responses to the eight specific questions posed in your March 7, 2011 letter.

Following the events in Japan, the Commission established a task force to conduct a near-term review of recent events in Japan and recommend issues for additional analysis and/or regulation over the longer term. Seismic is one of the topics among those being examined by the task force or are otherwise under active review within the agency. If at any time during this process it is determined that the Commission's regulations should be further examined and potentially revised, the agency will promptly undertake such an examination.

If you have any additional questions, please contact me or Ms. Rebecca Schmidt, Director of the Office of Congressional Affairs, at 301-415-1776.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Gregory B. Jaczko

Enclosure:
As stated