

August 25, 2011

The Honorable Al Carlson  
Majority Leader  
North Dakota House of Representatives  
Co-chair, NCSL Energy Supply Task Force  
National Conference of State Legislatures  
444 North Capitol Street, NW, Suite 515  
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Representative Carlson:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to your letter of June 30, 2011, about the various review initiatives of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) Energy Supply Task Force and your expression of support for nuclear energy.

In your letter, you urged the Federal Government to promptly perform a national analysis of the permitting of new generation technologies and to take action to ensure a robust fuel mix portfolio that includes nuclear power. To provide an historical and statutory perspective, the NRC was formed by the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974, which divided the former Atomic Energy Commission into the NRC and the Energy Research and Development Administration (later renamed as the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)). DOE's mission is to perform research and development activities in support of a national goal of energy independence, whereas the NRC's mission is to regulate the Nation's civilian use of byproduct, source, and special nuclear materials to ensure adequate protection of public health and safety, to promote the common defense and security, and to protect the environment. The promotion and research of energy technologies, including nuclear power, are not within the purview of the NRC.

We acknowledge and appreciate your urging the prudent and timely review of the lessons learned from the events in Japan. We continue to believe that our regulatory framework and requirements provide for a rigorous and comprehensive license review process that examines the necessary siting, design, construction, and operation issues for commercial nuclear power plants. As such, the NRC is continuing to process existing applications for new and renewed licenses in accordance with the schedules that have been established. The staff will implement the recommendations of the NRC's task force on Fukushima in reviewing these applications, as directed by the Commission. Furthermore, we have the regulatory tools in place to require changes to existing licenses or license applications should the Commission determine that any such changes are necessary.

The NRC has a long history of and commitment to transparency, participation, and collaboration in our regulatory activities. As a result of the recent nuclear events in Japan, the public, policymakers, and other stakeholders are following the NRC's actions more closely than ever. We appreciate and welcome the interest you expressed in meeting with the NRC staff in the future. In addition to meeting with us, we encourage you keep abreast of the NRC's regulatory activities through a variety of meetings open for public observation (Category 1 and 2 meetings)

A. Carlson

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or for public participation (Category 3 meetings). Schedules of all NRC meetings are available on the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/public-meetings/index.cfm>.

Thank you for your interest in these matters.

Sincerely,

/RA by Timothy J. McGinty for/

Eric J. Leeds, Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

August 25, 2011

The Honorable Thomas Holbrook  
Chair, Environmental and Energy Committee  
Illinois House of Representatives  
Co-chair, NCSL Energy Supply Task Force  
National Conference of State Legislatures  
444 North Capitol Street, NW, Suite 515  
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Representative Holbrook:

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Eric J. Leeds, Director  
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T. Holbrook

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/RA by Timothy J. McGinty for/

Eric J. Leeds, Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Identical letters sent to : the Honorable Al Carlson and the Honorable Thomas Holbrook

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