



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

January 25, 2012

SECRETARY

Ms. Deborah Carey  
4 Boie Avenue  
Amesbury, Massachusetts 01913

SUBJECT: SEABROOK NUCLEAR POWER STATION

Dear Ms. Carey:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to your letter to Chairman Gregory B. Jaczko in which you expressed concerns about the safety of extended operation of the Seabrook Nuclear Power Station. In particular, you requested that the NRC halt relicensing of Seabrook until the NRC fully and completely assesses the concrete degradation problem. You also requested that the NRC require Seabrook to repair the degraded concrete, require Seabrook to halt the infiltration of the groundwater that is believed to have caused that degradation, and ensure that the concrete degradation problem is resolved using tests and inspections over multiple years.

To the extent that your letter requests that the Commission halt the relicensing review of Seabrook, the Commission cannot respond. Under Commission regulations, the Commission has an adjudicatory role in the Seabrook license renewal proceeding. Matters related to Seabrook's license renewal application are currently pending before the Commission on appeal from the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board. Additional matters could come before the Commission in its adjudicatory capacity in the future. Therefore, it would be inappropriate for the Commission to comment on your request to halt relicensing review of Seabrook.

To the extent your letter raises concerns about assessment of, repair, and aging management of the concrete degradation at Seabrook, I am referring your letter to the technical staff to provide a response.

Please be assured that should information at any time show that there is a basis to question the continued safe operation of Seabrook, the NRC will take appropriate action as part of the agency's ongoing safety oversight.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Annette Vietti-Cook", is written over a horizontal line.

Annette L. Vietti-Cook

The Honorable Greg Jaczko  
Chairman  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
11555 Rockville Pike  
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Chairman Jaczko:

I am writing to you to express my deep concern for the public safety of the people and businesses of my district in light of disturbing new information that has come to light about the Seabrook nuclear power plant this year. As the State Senator from Massachusetts' First Essex District that includes the communities of Amesbury, Haverhill, Merrimac, Methuen, Newburyport, North Andover (Precincts 1, 4, 6 and 8) and Salisbury, it is my responsibility to speak up on behalf of the public safety of the people of my district.

According to a Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) report issued on May 23, 2011, the Seabrook plant has experienced concrete degradation due to groundwater infiltration that has been going on for years. Specifically, your inspection team identified concrete degradation that the report characterized as "moderate to severe." The damage was found during a below grade inspection to the *accessible* portion of the foundation including electrical control tunnel B--safety structure with vital electric cables that support the cooling system should a meltdown occur. Your report indicates that there has been a substantial decrease in the strength and integrity of the concrete. I commend your inspection team for its vigilance in identifying this significant problem.

But, it is very disturbing that the NRC had to concede that it does not know the scope and severity of the degradation throughout the plant's foundation. As the people of my communities know, a building is no stronger than its foundation. Apparently, the NRC agrees because in November 2011, you notified other nuclear power plants that there are emerging concerns with the type of concrete used at the Seabrook plant and about which they should be vigilant.

While I appreciate these protective steps, I am concerned—as are my constituents—that the plant's operators are rushing to relicense Seabrook. Specifically, I urge the NRC to

- Halt relicensing while the agency fully and comprehensively assesses the problem; and.
- Not relicense the plant based on a paperwork aging management plan submitted by the Seabrook operators.

On behalf of the public's safety, the Seabrook operators should gladly fix both the degraded concrete and abate the groundwater infiltration. The NRC should test the results over a sustained number of years to ensure that a new problem of this dimension is completely resolved. A paperwork promise to fix the plant is simply not adequate for this matter.

There are 18 years left before the current operating expires, and I am mystified—given the aging problems already evident at this specific nuclear plant—why the relicensing would proceed. The alkali-silica reaction is a new, thorny problem that your staff has thankfully identified, but will require years of intensive research, assessment, and monitoring before relicensing should be even considered.

As I am sure that you agree, the people and businesses of the Massachusetts First Essex District is of paramount importance and they deserve complete assurance that there will be no need for Seabrook's emergency sirens to sound the warning to evacuate their communities

Thank you for your continued vigilance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deborah Carey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The first name "Deborah" is written in a larger, more prominent script, and the last name "Carey" follows it in a similar but slightly smaller script. The signature is positioned to the right of the typed name "Deborah Carey".

Deborah Carey

4 Boie Ave.

Amesbury, MA 01913

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

In the Matter of	)	
	)	
NEXTERA ENERGY SEABROOK, LLC	)	DOCKET NO. 50-443-LR
(Seabrook Station, Unit 1)	)	
	)	
(License Renewal)	)	

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing **Letter from the Secretary to Deborah Carey**, dated January 25, 2012, have been served upon the following persons by Electronic Information Exchange.

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel  
Mail Stop: T-3F23  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Administrative Judge  
Paul S. Ryerson, Chair  
[paul.ryerson@nrc.gov](mailto:paul.ryerson@nrc.gov)

Administrative Judge  
Michael F. Kennedy  
[michael.kennedy@nrc.gov](mailto:michael.kennedy@nrc.gov)

Administrative Judge  
Richard E. Wardwell  
[richard.wardwell@nrc.gov](mailto:richard.wardwell@nrc.gov)

Anthony C. Eitrem, Esq.  
Chief Counsel  
[ace1@nrc.gov](mailto:ace1@nrc.gov)

Anne Siarnacki, Law Clerk  
[anne.siarnacki@nrc.gov](mailto:anne.siarnacki@nrc.gov)

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Office of the Secretary of the Commission  
Mail Stop: O-16C1  
Washington, DC 20555-0001  
Hearing Docket  
[hearingdocket@nrc.gov](mailto:hearingdocket@nrc.gov)

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Office of the General Counsel  
Mail Stop: O-15D21  
Washington, DC 20555-0001  
Catherine Kanatas  
[catherine.kanatas@nrc.gov](mailto:catherine.kanatas@nrc.gov)  
Brian Newell, Paralegal  
[brian.newell@nrc.gov](mailto:brian.newell@nrc.gov)  
David Roth, Esq.  
[david.roth@nrc.gov](mailto:david.roth@nrc.gov)  
Maxwell Smith, Esq.  
[maxwell.smith@nrc.gov](mailto:maxwell.smith@nrc.gov)  
Mary Spencer, Esq.  
[mary.baty@nrc.gov](mailto:mary.baty@nrc.gov)  
Edward Williamson, Esq.  
[elw2@nrc.gov](mailto:elw2@nrc.gov)  
OGC Mail Center  
[OGCMailCenter@nrc.gov](mailto:OGCMailCenter@nrc.gov)

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Office of Commission Appellate Adjudication  
Mail Stop: O-16C1  
Washington, DC 20555-0001  
[ocaamail@nrc.gov](mailto:ocaamail@nrc.gov)



NEXTERA ENERGY SEABROOK, LLC (Seabrook Station Unit 1) – Docket No. 50-443-LR  
**Letter from the Secretary to Deborah Carey**

NextEra Energy Seabrook, LLC  
801 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., #220  
Washington, DC 20004  
Steven C. Hamrick, Esq.  
[steven.hamrick@fpl.com](mailto:steven.hamrick@fpl.com)

NextEra Energy Seabrook, LLC  
700 Universe Boulevard  
Juno Beach, FL 33408  
William Blair, Esq.  
[william.blair@fpl.com](mailto:william.blair@fpl.com)  
James Petro, Esq.  
[james.petro@fpl.com](mailto:james.petro@fpl.com)  
Mitchell S. Ross, Esq.  
[mitch.ross@fpl.com](mailto:mitch.ross@fpl.com)  
Kim Bartels, Sr. Paralegal  
[kim.bartels@fpl.com](mailto:kim.bartels@fpl.com)

Counsel for the Applicant  
Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman, LLP  
2300 N Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20037-1122  
David R. Lewis, Esq.  
[david.lewis@pillsburylaw.com](mailto:david.lewis@pillsburylaw.com)

Friends of the Coast and  
New England Coalition (NEC)  
Post Office Box 98  
Edgecomb, ME 04556  
Raymond Shadis, Pro Se Representative  
[shadis@prexar.com](mailto:shadis@prexar.com)

Beyond Nuclear  
6930 Carroll Avenue, Suite 400  
Takoma Park, MD 20912  
Paul Gunter, Director, Reactor Oversight Project  
[paul@beyondnuclear.org](mailto:paul@beyondnuclear.org)

New Hampshire Sierra Club  
40 N. Main Street  
Concord, NH 03870  
Kurt Ehrenberg, Field Organizer  
[kurtehrenberg@gmail.com](mailto:kurtehrenberg@gmail.com)

Seacoast Anti-Pollution League  
P.O. Box 1136  
Portsmouth, NH 03802  
Doug Bogen, Executive Director  
[dbogen@metrocast.net](mailto:dbogen@metrocast.net)

State of New Hampshire  
Office of the Attorney General  
33 Capitol Street  
Concord, NH 03301  
K. Allen Brooks, Assistant Attorney General  
[k.allen.brooks@doj.nh.gov](mailto:k.allen.brooks@doj.nh.gov)  
Michael A. Delaney, Attorney General  
[michael.a.delaney@doj.nh.gov](mailto:michael.a.delaney@doj.nh.gov)  
Peter Roth, Assistant Attorney General  
[peter.roth@doj.nh.gov](mailto:peter.roth@doj.nh.gov)

State of Massachusetts  
Office of the Attorney General  
Environmental Protection Division  
One Ashburton Place, 18<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Boston, MA 02108  
Matthew Brock, Assistant Attorney General  
[matthew.brock@state.ma.us](mailto:matthew.brock@state.ma.us)  
Jennifer Faillace, Paralegal  
[jennifer.faillace@state.ma.us](mailto:jennifer.faillace@state.ma.us)

[Original signed by Nancy Greathead]  
Office of the Secretary of the Commission

Dated at Rockville, Maryland  
this 25<sup>th</sup> day of January 2012