

January 25, 2012

The Honorable Michael A. Costello
Massachusetts House of Representatives
Boston, Massachusetts 02133

SUBJECT: SEABROOK NUCLEAR POWER STATION

Dear Mr. Costello:

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,

/RA/

Annette L. Vietti-Cook