

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: 04/30/12

EDO CONTROL: G20120234

DOC DT: 03/23/12

FINAL REPLY:

Senator John F. Kerry

TO:

Chairman Jaczko

FOR SIGNATURE OF :

** PRI **

CRC NO: 12-0140

Chairman Jaczko

DESC:

ROUTING:

Safety Issues at Seabrook Nuclear Power Plant
(EDATS: SECY-2012-0178)

Borchardt
Weber
Virgilio
Ash
Mamish
OGC/GC
Leeds, NRR
Dean, RI
Zobler, OGC
Schmidt, OCA

DATE: 04/12/12

ASSIGNED TO:

CONTACT:

EDO

Rihm

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

Please prepare response in accordance with OEDO
Notice 2009-0441-02 (ML093290179). NRR and
Region I to provide input to Roger Rihm, OEDO, if
required. Roger Rihm will coordinate response with
OGC and OCA.

Template: SECY-017

E-RIDS: SECY-01

EDATS Number: SECY-2012-0178

Source: SECY

General Information

Assigned To: OEDO

OEDO Due Date: 4/30/2012 11:00 PM

Other Assignees:

SECY Due Date: 5/2/2012 11:00 PM

Subject: Safety Issues at Seabrook Nuclear Power Plant

Description:

CC Routing: NRR; RegionI; OGC; OCA

ADAMS Accession Numbers - Incoming:
ML12104A113

Response/Package: NONE

Other Information

Cross Reference Number: G20120234, LTR-12-0140

Staff Initiated: NO

Related Task:

Recurring Item: NO

File Routing: EDATS

Agency Lesson Learned: NO

OEDO Monthly Report Item: NO

Process Information

Action Type: Letter

Priority: Medium

Sensitivity: None

Signature Level: Chairman Jaczko

Urgency: NO

Approval Level: No Approval Required

OEDO Concurrence: YES

OCM Concurrence: NO

OCA Concurrence: NO

Special Instructions: Please prepare response in accordance with OEDO Notice 2009-0441-02 (ML093290179). NRR and Region I to provide input to Roger Rihm, OEDO, if required. Roger Rihm will coordinate response with OGC and OCA.

Document Information

Originator Name: Senator John F. Kerry

Date of Incoming: 3/23/2012

Originating Organization: Congress

Document Received by SECY Date: 4/12/2012

Addressee: Chairman Jaczko

Date Response Requested by Originator: NONE

Incoming Task Received: E-mail

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

Date Printed: Apr 11, 2012 17:35

PAPER NUMBER: LTR-12-0140 **LOGGING DATE:** 04/07/2012
ACTION OFFICE: EDO

AUTHOR: REP John Kerry
AFFILIATION: CONG
ADDRESSEE: CHRM Gregory Jaczko
SUBJECT: Concerns mandatory action related to serious safety issues at Seabrook Nuclear Power Plant

ACTION: Signature of Chairman
DISTRIBUTION: RF, OCA to Ack.

LETTER DATE: 03/23/2012
ACKNOWLEDGED No
SPECIAL HANDLING: Commission Correspondence

NOTES: SECY rec'd late in afternoon on 4/6 in Billie's box; however,
no one was here until Sat., 4/7 (Linda), who logged it in.

FILE LOCATION: ADAMS

DATE DUE: 05/02/2012 **DATE SIGNED:**

EDO --G20120234

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2102

1 Bowdoin Square
10th Floor
Boston, MA 02114

March 23, 2012

Gregory B. Jaczko
Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mail Stop O-16G4
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Dear Chairman Jaczko:

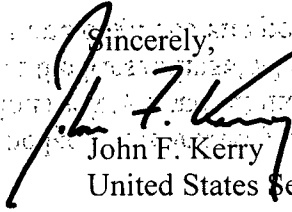
I write to raise my concern regarding the lack of mandatory action taken by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) related to serious safety issues at the Seabrook Nuclear Power Plant, located in Seabrook, New Hampshire, on the Massachusetts border. I urge you to take action immediately, before the plant becomes more degraded and poses an even more serious risk to the surrounding communities.

According to an NRC inspection report released in May 2011, there has been "moderate to severe" degradation of the concrete in a tunnel that is a vital part of the reactor's cooling system used to prevent a nuclear meltdown. The structure has lost twenty-two percent of its strength due to groundwater saturation. In the case of the Seabrook plant, an alkali-silica reaction is occurring whereby micro-cracks form as groundwater mixes with the concrete. This degradation poses a nuclear safety threat by weakening the electrical tunnel and possibly—as the NRC acknowledges—the plant's foundation where it comes in contact with groundwater. Further, it raises serious questions about the plant's ability to withstand an earthquake.

This represents a failure on the part of the NRC to take appropriate action to address known safety problems at the Seabrook Nuclear Power Plant. I urge you to fully address all issues related to the concrete degradation immediately. We cannot allow nuclear power plants to operate when there are known safety issues:

Thank you for your consideration on this matter. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Meghan Leahy at (617) 565-8519.

Sincerely,


John F. Kerry
United States Senator