

### **WEEKLY HIGHLIGHT**

On April 9, 2014, the NRC denied a petition for rulemaking (PRM), docketed as PRM-50-104, filed by Michael Mariotte. The PRM requested that the NRC amend its regulations in Part 50 to Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* to expand existing emergency planning zones around nuclear power plants, create a new emergency planning zone, and require the incorporation of concurrent natural disasters in the required periodic emergency plan drills. The PRM was denied because the NRC concluded that the current size of emergency planning zones is appropriate for existing reactors and that emergency plans will provide an adequate level of protection of the public health and safety in the event of an accident at a nuclear power plant. The current emergency planning zones provide for a comprehensive emergency planning framework that would allow expansion of the response efforts beyond the designated distances should events warrant such an expansion.