

April 2, 2014

Michael Mariotte
6930 Carroll Avenue
Suite 340
Takoma Park, MD 20912

Dear Mr. Mariotte:

I am responding to your letter to me dated February 15, 2012, by which you submitted to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) a petition for rulemaking (PRM). Specifically, you requested that the NRC amend its regulations in Part 50 of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* to expand existing emergency planning zones, create a new emergency planning zone, and require the incorporation of concurrent natural disasters in the required periodic emergency plan drills. The petition was docketed as PRM-50-104, and the NRC published a notice of receipt and request for public comments in the *Federal Register* on April 30, 2012 (77 FR 25375), and on www.regulations.gov under Docket ID NRC-2012-0046. The comment period closed on July 16, 2012. The NRC received 5,993 comment submissions in response to the request for comments. The NRC has prepared a comment response document to demonstrate how all comments were considered and to respond to the issues identified in the comments. The NRC's comment response document is available in the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System under Accession No. ML14042A227.

The NRC has considered the petition, and the arguments raised therein, as well as the comments received in response to the petition. For the reasons stated in the enclosed *Federal Register* notice, your petition for rulemaking is denied.

In summary, the NRC has concluded that the current size of the 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.

This petition is considered closed. Any questions you may have regarding this matter should be directed to Daniel Doyle by calling 301-415-3748 or by e-mail to Daniel.Doyle@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Annette L. Vietti-Cook
Secretary of the Commission

Enclosure:
Federal Register Notice