



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

June 10, 2021

The Honorable Edward J. Markey  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Markey:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to your letter dated May 10, 2021, requesting that the Commission reopen the record of decision and strengthen the four license conditions on the monitoring of alkali-silica reaction (ASR) expansion at Seabrook Station, Unit 1 (Seabrook) imposed by an Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (the Board) in 2020 following an agency adjudicatory hearing.

Over the course of four days in Newburyport, MA, the Board heard testimony regarding the acceptability of the ASR monitoring program at Seabrook from several experts, including Dr. Saouma, the experts for the NRC, and the experts for NextEra. The Board also considered extensive written evidence from all parties provided on the docket. On the basis of the full record presented to it, the Board imposed four license conditions directed at the ASR monitoring program, and concluded that with these license conditions in place, the program satisfied the NRC's requirements.<sup>1</sup>

C-10 sought reconsideration of certain aspects of the decision, including the terms of the license conditions imposed by the Board. The Board reviewed this motion, together with Dr. Saouma's recommendations, and determined that no substantive changes to the existing license conditions were necessary.<sup>2</sup> The Board's decisions were not appealed, and the Commission has declined review of the decisions. Therefore, the issues raised in your letter have been reviewed and considered by NRC technical experts and independent administrative judges as part of the agency's adjudicatory process.

Although the adjudication of this issue has ended, the agency will continue to monitor potential concerns with ASR at Seabrook as part of its regulatory responsibilities. Verification of the license conditions imposed as part of the 2020 adjudication will be incorporated into baseline inspections to be performed by NRC resident inspectors. These inspections will be performed in addition to the routine safety inspections conducted at Seabrook under the agency's Reactor Oversight Program. As part of its oversight role, the Agency will ensure that NextEra continues to provide adequate monitoring of ASR at Seabrook.

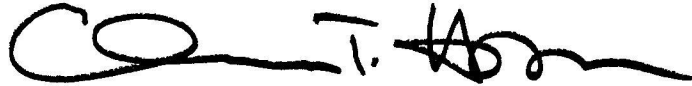
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<sup>1</sup> LBP-20-9, 92 NRC \_\_ (slip op.) (August 21, 2020; publicly released September 10, 2020).

<sup>2</sup> LBP-20-12, 92 NRC \_\_ (slip op.) (November 6, 2020; publicly released November 17, 2020).

Thank you for your letter and your continued interest in the NRC's oversight at Seabrook. If you have additional questions or need more information, please contact me, or have your staff contact Eugene Dacus, Director of the Office of Congressional Affairs, at 301-415-1776.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. T. Hanson", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Christopher T. Hanson

Identical letter sent to:

The Honorable Edward J. Markey  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510