



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

May 20, 2022

Dylan De Sena
106 Robinhood Lane
Camillus, NY 13031

SUBJECT: PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT CLASS – NUCLEAR ENERGY

Hello Dylan:

Thank you for writing to our Chairman regarding new nuclear power plants in the United States and your engagement on important national topics of interest to you and your peers.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has a very specific mission – ensuring the public and the environment remain safe during U.S. civilian uses of radioactive materials, such as nuclear power plants. That means we get involved after the discussion of whether the country (or even specific utility companies) should pursue nuclear power as an electricity source. The U.S. Department of Energy is responsible for the policy decisions on where the country should obtain its electricity.

In the past decade, the NRC has issued licenses to build and operate 14 new, large nuclear reactors in the United States. Two of those are under construction in Georgia, and one of them is nearing the point where the NRC can make a decision on whether nuclear fuel can be loaded. The utilities holding six other licenses have yet to decide on starting construction. Utilities that had licenses for the remaining six reactors decided to abandon those projects.

Several companies are seeking NRC approval for new, smaller reactor designs. If they meet NRC requirements to show the designs could be built and operated safely, several utilities have stated interest in seeking licenses to deploy those reactors in the United States. The NRC recognizes its important role in licensing and overseeing the safe use of nuclear power in support of national priorities related to clean energy and climate change. Additional information regarding the NRC's review of new reactors, including small modular and advanced reactor designs can be found at our NRC webpage: <https://www.nrc.gov/reactors/new-reactors.html>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert M. Taylor", is positioned above the typed name.

Signed by Taylor, Robert
on 05/20/22

Robert M. Taylor
Deputy Director for New Reactors
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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DATE MAY 20, 2022

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LTR-22-0137 Response letter to Dylan De Sena DATE May 20, 2022

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