

May 13, 2011

The Honorable Kirsten E. Gillibrand  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Gillibrand:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to your letter of April 4, 2011, urging us to act expeditiously to complete our Generic Issue 199 project on seismic hazards.

As discussed during a recent briefing with your staff, the NRC staff is preparing communication, known as a Generic Letter, to our licensees. Generic Letters are one of several types of generic communications the NRC uses to correspond with the nuclear industry on matters of broad applicability to a range of licensees or facilities. This Generic Letter will request additional information the NRC needs to make a determination of what, if any, additional measures should be implemented to address any adverse changes to the probability of seismically induced damage at U.S. operating reactors due to the evolving understanding of seismic hazards. In the coming months, the NRC staff intends to discuss a draft Generic Letter with the industry in a public meeting. Subsequently, the staff would present the draft to the NRC's Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards and then publish it for public comment. After evaluation of the public comments, the Generic Letter will be finalized and issued by the end of the calendar year. Licensees will be requested to provide responses within 6 months. The NRC staff will review the licensees' responses to determine if any additional actions are key.

Upon completion of these activities, the NRC will inform you of the results of our review. If you need any additional information, please contact me or Ms. Rebecca Schmidt, Director of the Office of Congressional Affairs, at (301) 415-1776.

Sincerely,

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Gregory B. Jaczko