

March 12, 2012

Mr. Geoffrey H. Fettus
Senior Project Attorney
Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc.
1152 15th Street NW, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Fettus:

I am responding to your letter of July 26, 2011, in which you enclosed and supplemented a petition for rulemaking (PRM) on behalf of the Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc., asking the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to amend its regulations to require each operating and new reactor licensee to establish station blackout mitigation strategies and resources. The Commission assigned the petition Docket Number PRM-50-101. The NRC published a notice of receipt on PRM-50-101 in the *Federal Register* on September 20, 2011 (76 FR 58165). The NRC did not institute a public comment period for this PRM.

The NRC has determined that the issues raised in PRM-50-101 are appropriate for consideration in the rulemaking process. The NRC will consider the issues raised in PRM-50-101 together with the issues regarding station blackout raised in Recommendation 4.1 of "Recommendations for Enhancing Reactor Safety in the 21st Century: The Near-Term Task Force Review of Insights from the Fukushima Dai-ichi Accident" (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System Accession Number ML111861807), dated July 12, 2011. Therefore, issues raised in PRM-50-101 will be considered as part of the ongoing "Station Blackout" rulemaking (RIN 3150-AJ08; NRC-2011-0299). The NRC is transmitting the enclosed *Federal Register* notice (FRN) regarding PRM-50-101 to the Office of the *Federal Register* for publication. This PRM docket is considered closed upon publication of the FRN.

You can monitor further NRC action on the issues raised in the petition on the Federal rulemaking Web site, <http://www.regulations.gov>, by searching rulemaking Docket ID NRC-2011-0299. The NRC also tracks all rulemaking actions at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/rulemaking-ruleforum/>.

Sincerely,

/RA/

R. W. Borchardt
Executive Director
for Operations

Enclosure:
Federal Register Notice

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