



Via Electronic Mail

July 27, 2011

Annette L. Vietti-Cook, Secretary  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555-0001  
Attention: Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff

**Subject: NRDC's Petition to provide sufficient safety-related instrumentation to monitor spent fuel pools.**

Dear Madam Secretary:

Pursuant to 10 C.F.R. § 2.206, the Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc. ("NRDC") hereby petitions the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission ("NRC") to order licensees to provide sufficient safety-related instrumentation, able to withstand design-basis natural phenomena, to monitor key spent fuel pool parameters (i.e., water level, temperature, and area radiation levels) from the control room.

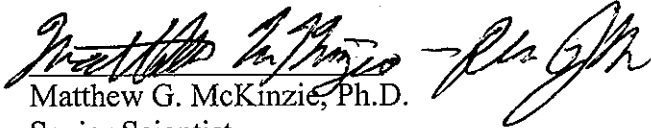
The rationale and the bases for this petition can be found in the NRC Staff report, Charles Miller, et al, "Recommendations for Enhancing Reactor Safety in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: The Near Term Task Force Review of Insights from the Fukushima Dai-ichi Accident," SECY-11-0093, July 12, 2011. We look forward to providing NRC with additional technical support for this petition after this petition has been accepted and docketed.

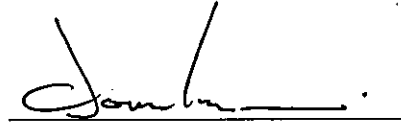
Please do not hesitate to contact us at (202) 289-6868 if you have any questions. NRDC appreciates your prompt consideration of this matter.

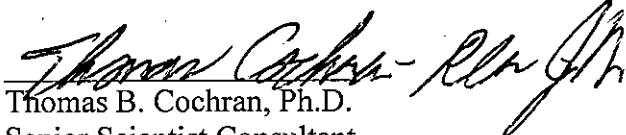
Sincerely,

Geoffrey H. Fettus  
Senior Project Attorney

Christopher E. Paine  
Director, Nuclear Program

  
Matthew G. McKinzie, Ph.D.  
Senior Scientist

  
C. Jordan Weaver, Ph.D.  
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Thomas B. Cochran, Ph.D.  
Senior Scientist Consultant  
Wade Greene Chair for Nuclear Policy

CC:

The Honorable Gregory B. Jaczko, Chairman  
The Honorable George Apostolakis  
The Honorable William D. Magwood, IV  
The Honorable William C. Ostendorff  
The Honorable Kristine L. Svinicki

### **Proposed Actions**

Pursuant to 10 C.F.R. § 2.206, NRDC petitions the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (“NRC”) to order licensees to provide sufficient safety-related instrumentation, able to withstand design-basis natural phenomena, to monitor key spent fuel pool parameters (i.e., water level, temperature, and area radiation levels) from the control room. NRDC requests that the Commission issue its order within ninety days.

### **Rationale for the Petition for Orders**

The rationale for this petition is found in the NRC Staff report, Charles Miller, et al, “Recommendations for Enhancing Reactor Safety in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: The Near-Term Task Force Review of Insights from the Fukushima Dai-ichi Accident,” SECY-11-0093, July 12, 2011. See particularly, Section 4.2.4, pp. 43-46 regarding Recommendation 7.1, p. 46. NRDC believes such an order and the Near-Term Task Force Review of this issue is consistent with 10 C.F.R. § 2.202 (a), which states in pertinent part: “[t]he Commission may ...take such other action as may be proper by serving on the licensee ... an order that will: (1) Allege ... the potentially hazardous conditions or other facts deemed to be sufficient ground for the proposed action, and specify the action proposed.”

### **Statement of Interest**

NRDC is a national non-profit membership environmental organization with offices in Washington, D.C., New York City, San Francisco, Chicago, Los Angeles and Beijing. NRDC has a nationwide membership of over one million combined members and activists. NRDC’s activities include maintaining and enhancing environmental quality and monitoring federal agency actions to ensure that federal statutes enacted to protect human health and the environment are fully and properly implemented. Since its inception in 1970, NRDC has sought to improve the environmental, health, and safety conditions at the nuclear facilities licensed by NRC and its predecessor agency.