

Minister
of Natural Resources



Ministre
des Ressources naturelles

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0E4

MAY 24 2013

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Dear Dr. Duguay:

Thank you for your letter of April 11, 2013, regarding your views on reducing the probability of severe nuclear accidents.

First and foremost, I would like to assure you that the Government of Canada places the highest priority on the protection of health, safety, security and the environment in relation to nuclear activities in Canada. In this regard, it has established one of the most stringent nuclear regulatory systems in the world for all aspects of the nuclear fuel cycle. This regulatory regime is founded on the *Nuclear Safety and Control Act* and is administered by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC), Canada's independent nuclear regulator.

The CNSC follows fair and transparent processes in carrying out its work and its decisions are based on sound analysis of scientific data and information. For example, immediately following the Fukushima Daiichi accident, the CNSC conducted a transparent review of all major nuclear facilities in Canada. The CNSC Fukushima Task Force confirmed the safety of Canada's nuclear power plants as well as their ability to withstand and respond to external events such as earthquakes. However, in the spirit of continuous improvement and to further reduce the probability of a severe nuclear accident, the CNSC established a four-year action plan, through several rounds of public consultations, in order to strengthen further nuclear power plant defences, emergency preparedness and Canada's nuclear regulatory framework.

In addition, Canada became the first country to have an International Atomic Energy Agency Integrated Regulatory Review Service mission that included a post-Fukushima module. The mission concluded that the CNSC's actions in response to the March 2011 events at Japan's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station were prompt, robust and comprehensive, and were identified as good practices that should be used by regulatory bodies in other countries.

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