

April 9, 2015

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

I received your letter making a case for reducing the use of nuclear energy in our region. Thank you very much for your thoughtful argument and the obvious research that went behind it.

I would like to address a couple of your points. First, in the six New England states, nuclear power accounts for about 34% of all electricity generated. The balance of the power generated in New England is made up of natural gas (40%), oil (4%), coal (5%), and renewable sources like wind, solar and hydro (17%). I'm particularly excited about the increase in renewable generation in recent years and see this as a trend moving forward. The nuclear plants in the region have been running for decades and have excellent safety records. I'm thankful for that. Though National Grid doesn't own any power plants (nuclear or otherwise), we do very much count on the owners of the plants to run them safely and efficiently. I appreciate you pointing out the importance of safety. It's something utility presidents focus on every day.

Second, you mention the difficulty in building nuclear power plants. This is true. Not only is the actual construction process lengthy, but there is a very difficult and time-consuming process before that when plant owners need to secure the proper permits and licenses to build. Because many residents in the US, indeed the world, share your concerns over safety, this becomes a contentious process for the builders. It also explains why fewer and fewer new nuclear power plants have been built in the last couple of decades. You should know, though, that utility companies and power plant owners are in the business of building long-lived assets to serve our customers and getting them built is part of our challenge.

Third, thank you for recognizing the benefits of nuclear power, too. I was impressed by your ability to see both sides of an argument, and it brought credibility to your letter. As I mentioned above, I am happy that electric generators are starting to build more and more renewable power sources like wind and solar. As a population, we need all sorts of solutions, and the advancements in renewable technologies is nothing short of exciting for someone like me.

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Thank you again for your letter, I was impressed by your argument, how you laid out your views, your writing, your letter structure, and the overall packaging of the case. It is my hope that you keep this apparent curiosity of the world around you. We always need good, thoughtful employees. So finish your education and then give me a call. I'll have you on my team any time.

Regards,



Marcy L. Reed