



CHAIR

UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

October 11, 2023

The Honorable Byron Donalds  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Donalds:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to your August 31, 2023, letter concerning the NRC's timeliness when scheduling the upcoming Kairos Hermes construction permit application mandatory Commission hearing for October 19, 2023.

The Commission is committed to conducting the statutorily mandated hearing for the Kairos Hermes construction permit application with urgency while continuing to achieve its mission to protect public health and safety and to ensure common defense and security. The Atomic Energy Act requires the Commission to hold a public hearing before issuing a construction permit for a nuclear reactor. The Commission conducts required mandatory hearings as expeditiously as possible, with the goal to produce a public record that demonstrates the Commission's thorough review of the staff's conclusions establishing that the application meets the NRC's regulatory standards for safe and secure construction. A mandatory hearing provides transparency for the public and interested stakeholders in the NRC's application review practices and provides the opportunity for State, Local, and Tribal Governments to participate in the hearing.

The Commission is committed to continually refining the NRC's organizational efficiencies, including those that would advance the mandatory hearing process to meet the agency's mission as a modern, risk-informed regulator.

Thank you for your letter and your continued interest in the NRC's work to review advanced nuclear reactor applications. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me or have your staff contact Eugene Dacus, Director of the Office of Congressional Affairs, at (301) 415-1776.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christopher T. Hanson".

Christopher T. Hanson