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## **PETITIONERS ASK NRC TO RETHINK CALLAWAY 2 LICENSE AFTER FUKUSHIMA**

Great Rivers joined with petitioners from around the country in asking the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to suspend proceedings on all applications for new nuclear power plant license until it can study the disaster at Japan's Fukushima Daiichi plant and apply lessons learned.

The emergency petition to suspend all pending licensing proceedings was filed in the Callaway case in several parts between April 18 and 20. The petition was written by Diane Curran of Washington, D.C, the country's leading anti-nuclear attorney.

Ameren Missouri filed an application in 2008 to build a second reactor at its Callaway plant. Great Rivers Environmental Law Center filed a Petition to Intervene on behalf of the Missouri Coalition for the Environment and Missourians for Safe Energy, pointing out flaws in Ameren's Environmental Report and their inability to guarantee disposal of the radioactive waste that Callaway 2 would emit.

Ameren suspended the proceeding in 2009 when it was unable to get a favorable financing mechanism passed by the Missouri legislature. The emergency petition still applies in the Callaway case even though it has already been suspended; the petition asks that, in the event a closed case is reopened, petitioners be allowed to advance new arguments based on the events at Fukushima, where a magnitude 9.0 earthquake on March 11 and the ensuing tsunami caused catastrophic failures of reactor cooling systems when backup power was lost.

Like every nuclear power plant in the country, Callaway stores its irradiated fuel rods in spent fuel pools on-site. Fukushima dramatically illustrates the danger if cooling water is lost. The U.S. still has no plan for long-term storage of these nuclear wastes at a secure repository.

*Great Rivers is a nonprofit public interest environmental law firm in St. Louis that provides free and reduced-fee legal services to those working to promote preservation of open space, clean energy, clean air and clean water. Its web address is: [www.greatriverslaw.org](http://www.greatriverslaw.org).*