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From: <Bobleyse@aol.com>
To: <laurel.hall@mail.house.gov>
Date: Mon, Aug 18, 2003 1:32 PM
Subject: An Urgent Task for INEEL

Congressman Mike Simpson

Dear Mike:

On June 16-27, 2003, the Director, Division of Reactor Safety, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, was on International travel in Hungary to support an IAEA Mission to a PAKS reactor that recently experienced substantial fuel damage. I have not located any detailed reporting of that Director's findings in the NRC's Public Document Room. The American Public is entitled to comprehensive, in-depth and uncensored reporting of that international travel by that Director and his staff. Approximately ten percent of the reactor core of the PAKS-2 reactor was severely damaged in fuel cleaning operations. So, please have the Chairman of the NRC immediately provide you with the details.

The INEEL, as the center of U. S. Nuclear Research, should be commissioned to study this accident in detail. At my own expense, I am attending and presenting a paper at the forthcoming INEEL conference, the 2003 RELAP5 International Users Seminar, West Yellowstone, Montana, August 27-29. My paper, "Unmet Challenges for SCDAP/RELAP5-3D: Analysis of Severe Accidents for Light Water Nuclear Reactors with Heavily Fouled Cores," will include a limited discussion of the Paks-2 accident. Really, the NRC should show up at West Yellowstone RELAP5 Seminar and reveal the details of the PAKS-2 accident and enlist the participation of INEEL in detailed study of that accident.

Mike, the Russian experts were among those at the IAEA mission that investigated the PAKS-2 accident. V. Asmolov, the Director of the Kurchatov Institute observed, "... it was a hand-made accident caused by those who, mildly speaking, clumsily thrust where they shouldn't. This is a precious experience." Mike, I'm repeating for emphasis, that precious experience should be studied in detail by INEEL. Fouling of nuclear reactor fuel rods and related the cleaning operations have become commonplace in our USA nuclear power reactors. The NRC and the DOE have not been on top of this. INEEL has been kept out of this arena, and it is vital for INEEL to catch up so that it may assume its position of leadership as the center for U. S. nuclear research.

Mike, thank you for your attention to this. Also, I must mention, my current work in this arena is entirely voluntary. I'm not after any contracts or employment. My primary interest is in another arena; microscale phase-heat transfer at ultra high power density. However, I must admit that I recently sought INEEL participation in a proposal to investigate the impact of fouling on reactivity insertion accidents (like SL-1).

Bob

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