

From: <gwingard@earthlink.net>
 To: <rulemaking@nrc.gov>
 Date: Sat, Nov 29, 2003 4:53 PM
 Subject: Response from "Contact Us About Rulemaking-Ruleforum"

10/24/03
 RDB received
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Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
 (gwingard@earthlink.net) on Saturday, November 29, 2003 at 16:53:15

comments: Dear NRC:

I recently came across the news article below:

Nuclear Agency Changes Its Stance on a Fire Safety
 Proposal
 By MATTHEW L. WALD

Published: November 29, 2003

WASHINGTON, Nov. 28 - After 10 years of struggling to make reactor owners modify their plants to protect electrical cables from fire, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission is now proposing to amend its own rules, retroactively legalizing an alternate strategy used by many plants but never formally approved.

All I can say is are you all out of your minds?

Instead of having nuclear power plants meet fire safety standards you are proposing to allow an alternative of having Homer Simpson run around and operate the plant on manual if the wires controlling the plant burn out or are damaged by fire.

You already know what needs to be done. Nuclear power plants like a house, office building or factory need to meet the fire code. In the case of nuclear power plants this would include some retro fit in older non compliant plants. A lot of what needs to be done is just common sense, like you don't run the primary system and backup systems wiring together so that if there is a fire that impacts the wiring it burns out the primary and backup systems at the same time. This is such a simple matter that it would truly take a brain dead moron not to get it. You know you need to do this, and have known it for some time (like since the Browns Ferry fire). You have even instructed plant operators to do this. Your actions are like those of an ineffectual squad leader who when getting blown off on their instructions says "OK, whatever you guys want to do."

Mean while the nuclear industry touts itself as the "clean" and "cost effective" power source, but evidently they want to make their profits by blowing off even the most basic of safety measures.

If any other industry, or building structure operated on this basis they would be shut down in a heart beat by the Fire Department for failure to meet the Fire Code. You can't comply with the Fire Code in an apartment building by saying "Yeah, I didn't put in the required smoke detectors, but I have designated staff on each floor that will run around and scream real loud if they smell smoke."

The operation of the NRC and your pandering to the industry you supposedly regulate is an

Template = ADM-013

E-RIDS = ADM-03
 CDR = R. Outley (RIFD)
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embarrassment.

I request that you part of what ever public process is under way on this matter and list me as a party of record.

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