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Rules and Directives  
Branch  
USNRC

Michael T. Lesar  
Chief, Rules & Directives Branch  
Division of Administrative Services, Office of Administration  
Mail Stop T-6D59  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Mr. Lesar,

It's frightening to learn that nuclear power plants in nearly a dozen states don't meet basic fire safety regulations! Instead of virtually exempting these plants from the regulations, as the NRC proposes, they should be required to come into compliance.

Relaxing fire safety rules to no longer require automated backup shutdown systems means plants may have a hard time preventing meltdown during a fire. Workers could be called upon to perform dangerous or even suicidal actions to get to manual controls in a burning area. Even then it might be impossible to shut the plant down.

The regulations were written to fix problems exposed by a 1975 accident. It's time every plant is required to meet their requirements. At a minimum, the automated shutdown equipment should be safe during a fire. The violations are a danger to workers and communities and an invitation to terrorists.

Sincerely,

*Nancy Strong*  
Nancy Strong

"What if..." A back-up shutdown system that is also automated seems like the responsible safe way to go. In these days of concern for proper risk management, relaxing the rules sounds ill-advised!

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