

From: Eric Epstein <ericepstein@comcast.net>
To: Alicia Mullins <AXM7@nrc.gov>
Date: 02/25/2007 11:20:50 AM
Subject: Fwd: Op-ed: Snow storm and nuclear emergency plan

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>>

>>

February 24, 2007

>>

>> Dear Editor:

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>> As we thaw out from winter's icy grip, it has become apparent how

>> much

>> work needs to be done to prepare for sudden disasters. What happened

>> last week on I-78 was the latest example of how ill prepared

>> Pennsylvania is

>> to handle an unannounced emergency. People were stranded for more

>> than

>> 24 hours in sub-freezing temperatures. How could Pennsylvania

>> have been

>> caught so off guard? Where was the Governor? Where was PEMA? Where

>> was the Lt. Governor who chairs the Pennsylvania Emergency

>> Management

>> Council?

>>

>> The state has had 28 years to prepare for emergencies since pre-

>> school

>> children and pregnant women were evacuated from the Three Mile

>> Island-area

>> on March 30, 1979. While improvements have been made, these kids

>> remain unaccounted for in the event of another meltdown.

>>

>> Katrina, this summer's flooding, and the most recent snow emergency

>> demonstrate that we are ill equipped to evacuate large populations

>> in the

>> event of a radiological emergency. If we can't get people off a

>> highway for

>> more than 24 hours due to snow and ice, how are we going to

>> evacuate an

>> entire population living in the 10 mile Emergency Planning Zone

>> around

>> a nuclear power plant?

>>

>> After 9/11, TMI-Alert reviewed Pennsylvania's emergency plan and

>> found day care centers and nursery schools had been left out even

>> though

>> a 1984 federal law required their inclusion. TMIA filed suit at

>> the NRC. The

>> author of the 1984 NRC law, agreed with TMIA, and filed a formal

>> complaint.

>> This 40 year nuclear veteran recommended that the NRC compel the

>> Commonwealth to include preschool children and nursery schoolers in

>> the nuclear emergency plan, or risk losing their license.

>>

>> The NRC denied TMIA's request that the NRC enforce its own law.
>> Governor Rendell, PEMA, and the nuclear industry continue to
>> argue that it
>> is not their responsibility to help these kids get out of harm's way.

>>
>> Playing a nuclear shell game with children is not emergency
>> planning.

>>
>> Sincerely,

>>
>> Eric Epstein,
>> Chairman, TMI-Alert
>> 4100 Hillsdale Road
>> Harrisburg, PA 17112
>> (717)-541-1101 or ericepstein@comcast.net

>>
>> Three Mile Island Alert, Inc., is a safe-energy organization
>> based in Harrisburg,
>> Pennsylvania and founded in 1977. TMIA monitors Peach Bottom,
>> Susquehanna,
>> and Three Mile Island nuclear generating stations.

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Subject: Fwd: Op-ed: Snow storm and nuclear emergency plan
Creation Date 02/25/2007 11:20:25 AM
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