

-----Original Message-----

From: gs or gfv [mailto:garyfromvermont@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, July 14, 2008 12:49 AM
To: OPA1 Resource
Subject: VY cooling tower.

Dear NRC staff-

I read with interest your I-08-45 press release dated 7/13/08.

Here are the glaringly obvious sentences...

"NRC's resident inspector staff at Vermont Yankee have been working through the weekend ensuring that Entergy's evaluation of the condition of the towers and analysis of the cause of the leak and sagging have been thorough and comprehensive. The NRC also will evaluate Entergy's planned actions to repair the cooling towers and return them to service."

Less than one year ago you, the NRC, did the exact same thing here in Vermont after our first spectacular cooling tower collapse.

The questions asked of a young man applying for Conscientious Objector status include,

How long have you held the beliefs that merit you be granted CO status?

Where did you get these beliefs?

What can you tell us to convince us your holding these beliefs is sincere?

Those are exceedingly difficult questions for a young person to answer.

You, the NRC are the regulator for the most heavily regulated industry in the country.

Allow me to ask you some direct questions publicly...

Did you or did you not ensure that Entergy's evaluations of the conditions and analysis of the cause of the leak that led to the intitial spectacular cooling tower collapse last summer had been thorough and comprehensive?

What can you tell the public today to convince us that your work is more diligent this year than last?

Perhaps the NRC is willing to call in Battelle or some other qualified independent inspector to assure the quality of the lax NRC work.

Perhaps, better yet, Entergy or the NRC is willing to pay for the replacement costs of the power to the state so that rate payers/stakeholders need not see our rates

increase due to the shoddy
NRC/VY workmanship of last Summer.

It sure looks like the NRC has dropped the ball again.
I hope the NRC is not foolish enough to use that expression again.

You, the NRC has said Three Mile Island, March 28,
1979 was a wake-up call for the industry.

February 11, 81 - TVA's Sequoyah I plant in Tennessee had a 110,000
gallon radioactive
coolant release.

Then January 25, 1982- Ginna plant near Rochester, New York a steam
generator pipe broke
spilling 15,000 gallons of radioactive coolant, and small amounts of
radioactive steam escaped
into the air.

January 15&16,1983 at Browns Ferry station nearly 208,000 gallons of
low-level radioactive
contaminated water was accidentally dumped into the Tennessee River.

1981-1982 and 1983 at Salem 1 and 2 in New Jersey was 90 seconds from
catastrophe when
the plant shut down manually, after the failure of automatic shutdown
systems/ plus a 3,000
gallon radioactive water leak in June 81 and a 23,000 gallon leak of
"mildly"
radioactive water (which splashed onto 16 workers) in February 82 and
two radioactive gas
leaks in March 81 and September 82.

In 1996, NRC Chairman Shirley Jackson, speaking of Millstone's debacle
in Time Magazine,
"Clearly, NRC dropped the ball. We won't do it again"

February, 15, 2000 -New York's Indian Point II aging steam generator
ruptured venting
radioactive steam.
The NRC initially reported no radioactive material was released, but
later changed their report to
say there was a leak, but not enough to threaten public safety.

2004 - New NRC Chairman Nils Diaz, about Davis-Besse,... said the agency
"dropped the ball"
... (and he wasn't talking about the football as in size of the hole in
the containment vessel)

The 2007 Entergy VY cooling tower collapse was the result of deferred
maintenance. Prairie
Island's cooling tower had collapsed 11 years earlier. Entergy and VY
had neglected the repairs
due to the poor tower design that did not allow anything but robotic
inspections.

The onus is on the NRC to hold themselves and Entergy VY accountable, (
read; not to bring
them back to profitability).

Otherwise, why should we ever believe you are sincere?

Alternate ending:(please include) In France last week, a nuclear treatment facility, Tricastin, accidentally leaked un-enriched uranium onto the ground and into three bodies of water prompting a ban on swimming, bathing and drinking well water near Lyon. The managing corporation, Areva, was slow to notify the public, thus endangering them. The French Authority's response was to temporarily close Tricastin. Areva chose the high road by deciding to close the facility permanently.

It is time for Entergy to choose the high road also.

I await your responses.

Thank you.

Gary Sachs
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E-mail Properties

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Created By: Barry.Norris@nrc.gov

Recipients:

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Options

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