

Paul Krohn

From: aceactivist [aceactivists@comcast.net]
Sent: Tuesday, January 13, 2009 5:54 PM
To: Paul Krohn
Subject: Receipt Requested

Mr. Krohn,

Because we did not get an e-mail receipt, we tried to fax this to you with the new fax number you provided a short time ago when we spoke on the phone. Once again we got an answering machine on the fax number.

Please show the receipt for this e-mail so we are sure you received it.

Donna Cuthbert

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

From: aceactivist
Date: 1/13/2009 12:16:58 PM
To: NRC - Paul Krohn
Subject: Limerick Fire Safety Compliance

Alliance For A Clean Environment
P.O. Box 3063 Stowe, PA 19464 (610) 326-6433

January 12, 2009

Paul Krohn, NRC Branch Chief

NRC, Region 1

475 Allendale Road
King of Prussia, PA 19406-1415

**Question: Is Limerick Nuclear Power Plant In Complete Compliance
With All Fire Safety Rules?**

Dear Mr. Krohn,

Prevention and precaution are imperative. Is Limerick Nuclear Power Plant in violation of any of NRC's fire safety rules? In the heavily populated region around Limerick Nuclear Power Plant, NRC should provide strict enforcement of all its fire safety rules.

An October, 2008 report to Congress, "*Fire When NOT Ready*", said all U.S. Nuclear plants have been in violation of fire safety rules for more than a decade and therefore at risk of a meltdown from a fire. Apparently fires can damage control cables, causing operators to lose the ability to shut down and cool the reactor. NRC itself estimated that overall meltdown risk from fire hazards is about 50%, roughly equal to all other hazards combined, yet it appears NRC allows nuclear plants to violate fire safety rules.

Frustrated NRC Commissioner, Gregory Jaczko, was quoted saying at a public meeting July, 2008: "Simple, straightforward regulations and I don't think there is one plant right now that is in compliance with those regulations."

A 2008 Union of Concerned Scientists report suggests that Americans are only protected when fire protection regulations at nuclear power plants are met. UCS's David Lochbaum was quoted saying, "*The only thing more tragic that a nuclear power reactor fire killing Americans is the plain fact that those lives could be been saved had only the NRC bothered to*

enforce- rather than ignore – its fire protection regulations. I would not want to be in NRC's shoes when they face a grieving nation following a disaster so easily prevented."

National groups tracked fire protection non-compliances since the early 1990s, pointed to North Carolina's Shearon Harris plant as emblematic of "NRC's inept performance as guardian of public health and safety", and called on Congress to wield its power to require NRC to enforce fire safety rules or shut down nuclear plants. They claimed if NRC had been doing its job, dozens of plants would have been shut down until their owners prioritized fixing all the fire safety violations.

Unless Limerick Nuclear Power Plant is in full compliance with all fire safety rules, everything is NOT safe, so please don't try to suggest that full compliance is unnecessary.

If Limerick Nuclear Power Plant is not in full compliance with NRC's fire safety rules, we call on NRC to require Exelon to get into full compliance BEFORE the next refueling. Failure to require full compliance with all fire safety rules exposes this enormous population to unnecessary risks from fire hazards at Limerick Nuclear Plant. If Exelon refuses, we call on NRC to shut Limerick down until Exelon complies.

If Limerick Nuclear Power Plant is not currently in full fire safety compliance, please explain in detail why not and what NRC intends to do about that. We hope NRC will require full compliance with fire safety rules BEFORE the next refueling at Limerick. Looking forward to your timely response.

Donna Cuthbert, ACE Vice President

Cc: Senator Casey
Senator Specter
Congressman Sestak
Congressman Gerlach
Congressman Dent

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