

158 Grandview Lane

Mahwah, NJ 07430

September 7, 2009

Donnie Ashley @ the Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Subject: Comment on License Renewal for the Salem and Hope Creek Nuclear Power Plants.

To renew the licenses for these nuclear plants represents extreme neglect of the public safety and welfare. It was incredibly poor judgment that these plants were built on "Artificial Island" in the first place. These plants should be shut down, with operation not allowed to continue, much less have their operation greatly extended. Incredibly, PSE&G is considering putting another nuclear plant on this island in this earthquake prone region. For shame!

None of the nuclear plants are built on solid rock. They are on filled in land. The letter I received from Bruce A. Boger (August 24) confirmed that these plants are not on solid rock. They rest on compacted engineering fill material or concrete, which have a depth of approximately 70 feet. Concrete pilings are used. The NRC presumes that this will enable them to resist the worst assault that an earthquake can deliver. This is wishful thinking, rather than common sense.

Not only that, but deceitful testimony has been given in support of the environmental impact of the existing nuclear plants. The statement for renewal states that the existing plants had no adverse effects on the Delaware Estuary. In fact, Salem kills 3 billion fish annually. Environmental expert Robert F. Kennedy Jr. sued the EPA in 1993. He revealed that Salem alone killed more than 3 billion Delaware River fish each year, according to the plant's own consultant. Fish kills are illegal and represent criminal acts.

What can happen from building on unstable land was exemplified in Shanghai, China.

At around 5:30 AM on June 27, 2009 an unoccupied building, still under construction at Lianhuanan Road in the Mining district of Shanghai City toppled.

Just before the toppling, there were reports of cracks on the flood-prevention wall near the buildings and "special geological conditions" in the water bank area.



Toppled Building lying flat on the ground.



Pilings that were supposed to assure that the building was stable.

Three New Jersey nuclear power plants are built on unstable ground. These are the Salem I, Salem II, and the Hope Creek plants.

They are on *Artificial Island* in the *Delaware River*. It was named "Artificial" because it was man-made with filled in land. There is a swamp on one side of the island with the river on the other side. There is no solid rock underneath. Borings were made up to 100 feet deep. No rock was found. The reactors are built on pilings similar to the pilings shown in the collapsed Shanghai City building.

See the concrete pilings of the building that collapsed.

Like so many nuclear facilities, these three nukes are close to an earthquake fault. This fault rumbled on February 3, 2009. The noise of geological shocks in February, terrified people in Morris County who thought the shocks were explosions as reported by The Star Ledger,

The Morris County (NJ) quake had an intensity of 3.0. That was a small event according to the *US Geological Survey*. But much more intense earthquakes are due. Earthquakes may occur a few times a year in New Jersey. Some are so small that they are hardly noticed. A biggie can happen in a hundred years or tomorrow.

In Japan, seven reactors at the *Kashiwazi-Kariwa* nuclear power plant in Japan were shut down due to an earthquake, fire and nuclear leak. People were killed and injured by the 6.8 magnitude quake, which struck in July, 2007. A new fire at the still shut down plant occurred in March, 2009. 600,000 residents signed a petition opposing restart of the plant.

The arrogance of building nuclear plants in an earthquake prone area is almost unbelievable. Believe it! This arrogance is also invested in other Nuclear Regulatory Commission rules.

The NRC is still satisfied with a mere ten-mile evacuation zone around a nuke when poisons from Three Mile Island were blown hundreds of miles. Poisons from Chernobyl were blown around the world? This satisfaction is idiotic.

The NRC continues support for the Price Anderson Act. This federal law limits liability of a disaster to a microscopic fraction of the potential damage which will be incurred? This Act reduces concerns of operating utilities, a very risky effect. This federal law abolishes the property rights of Americans in order to protect the property rights of nuclear plant owners. This atrociously unfair law is nothing less than Fascist.

The NRC continues to support the distribution of potassium iodide pills as an assurance that no one will be harmed from a disaster? These pills only protect against radioactive iodine. The pills must be taken immediately and continue to be used for as long as radioactive iodine lingers in the environment. The pills do nothing to protect against all of the other radioactive poisons, which are released. This is no real assurance to anyone who is informed.

The NRC continues to support ridiculously inadequate evacuation plans following a fuming meltdown at a nuke.

The record of the NRC, including other shameful rulings, has earned it the reputation that the initials **NRC** stand for **Nobody Really Cares**. The automatic relicensing of old and crumbling nuclear plants by the NRC emphasizes the truth of that reputation.

All of the above represents technological prostitution. At least girls of the night are honest in what they do.

Cut the arrogance! Cut the stupidity! Start protecting Americans. An anything for profits paradigm has brought this great nation to the brink of destruction. The NRC's further actions can allow the final destructive blow. It is unpatriotic.

Very truly yours,

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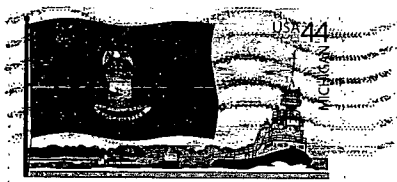
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