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Jefferson City, MO 65101
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Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

OFFICE OF SECRETARY
RULEMAKINGS AND
ADJUDICATIONS STAFF

ATTN: Rule Makings and Adjudications Staff

Subject: Comments on NRC Proposed Rule, "Enhancements to Emergency Preparedness Regulations";

Docket ID NRC-2008-0122

Dear Sirs:

This letter is in Response to the Proposed Rulemaking referenced above. Many of my colleagues will write responses on a line by line basis, which they have a right to do. My response will be some comments about this process and where it is leading.

In Missouri we have a phrase that "Good fences, make good neighbors." Every commercial Nuclear Power Plant in the United States has a rather substantial fence around it. I would suggest that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission stay inside that fence. Off-site Response Organizations do not need another Federal Agency 'looking over their shoulder.' The Federal Emergency Management Agency, especially through their Regional Offices, do a very thorough job of planning review, grading exercises, and maintaining liaison with State and Local officials. We do not need another set of kibitzers looking into our business.

The recent economic downturn has affected State and Local budgets to the point where we are currently 'doing more, with less'. However, key response and required services have not been suspended. To place more burdens on the OROs, will ultimately affect the timeliness and substantive response to emergencies. This is opposed to the Federal Government's other motto, 'Do Less with More'. The NRC has a unique situation where if they want more money the just send a bigger bill to the industry (must be nice to have your budget mandated that at least 90% of your funds come from industry). I just wonder where the other 10% comes from - spurious fines with increased rates, sounds like the 'red-light' camera program...'it's really for safety- not for revenue generation.

Since the inception of NRC/FEMA NUREG 0654 program, we have had three Site Area Emergencies and no General Emergencies. This tells me that we are spending a whole lot of money, regulating something or just looking at something that just isn't there. It is my contention, that they time that we had what could be classified as a General Emergency, was the Three Mile Island Event that brought this whole program about. Many in the industry would tell you that TMI was a Site Area and not the General Emergency. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission did do a lot of good things in Operating Licensee oversights, such as RSO training,

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etc. But the point that is to be made is that the off-site people could probably do with less oversight, than is currently in place. And there should be no additional oversight in the future! STAY INSIDE THE FENCE!.

FEMA along with their Homeland Security overseers, have mandated additional exercise requirements and corrective action programs through the Homeland Security Exercise Evaluation Program. Along with the Emergency Management Program Grant Program, many State and Local units of government are experiencing 'exercise burn-out'. Now the NRC, is going to mandate additional exercises into the programs with 'Hostility Action Based" exercises. While the intention is good, I think that much of this energy is going to be wasted, because if you think that the Federal Bureau of Investigation is going to play a sincere role in these exercises and going to 'play ball' with other Federal, State and Local response agencies, someone is living in LA-LA land. They won't even coordinate intelligence with State and local fusion centers. Why does New York City have a large group looking into the subversive groups within the City! It's because the federal government is not doing their job! We are more concerned with looking at grandmas and retired Army Colonel's at airports than we are tracking down the internal terrorists that do live among us!

I have worked in Emergency Management nigh on twenty-three years, States and Locals in our region have responded extremely well to real situations generated by Mother Nature. The only scenario that I see that could generate a Katrina-like situation would be a New Madrid Earthquake of substantial magnitude. The good news, all of the Nuclear Power Plants in the Central United States are built to be seismically resistant, including those in Northern Illinois well over 300 miles from NMSZ. Even in Katrina, the commercial Nuclear Power Plant industry responded quickly and safely had the plants well in hand.

So, In conclusion, I would recommend that Nuclear Regulatory Commission, stop additional rule-making, quit hiring people that couldn't make it in the industry and quit trying to fix something that doesn't need fixing. The only thing that needs fixing is probably FEMA's National REP Program - that is making it stronger, by keeping the NRC in check and using the FEMA Regional Offices more to refine the Off-Site Response, however, I think they are starting to go in that direction and I would encourage them to continue.

Sincerely,



Edward S. Gray
Citizen of the United States and
the State of Missouri.

Please Note: These are my opinions and do reflect the opinion of my employer or any previous employer.