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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
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F. Keegan (ENK)

12-25-09

Dear Alan Walts and whom this concerns, *Nuclear Regulatory Commission*

I would like to start by telling you that I appreciate your response. Thank you for forwarding my previous letter to the N.R.C. and the A.T.S.D.R.. I'm writing you this letter to tell you and everyone else why the Prairie Island Nuclear power plant in Welch Minnesota. should not be relicensed for another 20 years. I have written to President Obama and other Congress people to get help for my family and the rest of this Country. There are 104 Nuclear Power Plants operating across this nation. The N.R.C. is the one responsible for maintaining and managing these sites. Every day these sites are creating toxic waste, every day this stuff is stacking up with no place to go. There is no such thing as a "permanent disposal facility". We all live here. If this isn't a thing to stop, what is? The N.R.C. is only concerned with keeping the facilities running. They don't care who they hurt or at what loss. This is our country, our planet, it is the one thing that provides us with all we need to survive and thrive. Where do you figure we will all be living but next door to nuclear if we don't stop creating this waste that out lives us. We've created something we can't even touch.

I ask myself all the time why has this been allowed to go on for this long? There is always, some one else, to pursue matters with. The Monticello Nuclear power plant isn't surrounded by a neighborhood, a school, a Day care center, a Tribal community for the last of their kind. (It is still on our planet and on our main water way) This is Environmental racism from a Gov. that does not want these people. With no escape route built in this long and no help from the State to urge progress in the Tribes favor. It shows disregard for this community. It doesn't make me feel better or anyone safer to know they practice emergency escape plans, there is no escaping Radiation. This is a community of people and a Nuclear power plant living on an Island in a flood plain. I go there I see the way the water rises. It wouldn't take much of an unexpected emergency to cause a devastating disaster. The security around the plant is a fence and some big rocks. This scares me really bad because anyone who may want to hurt us could easily do so by making the plant a target. That's our main vein of water down this country and in to the big Ocean. A disaster would split our country in half. It leads me to wonder what type of people we have making the rules and regulations as far as what is safe.

The Gov. always has what it calls an acceptable loss or dose limit for radioactivity. If the monitoring of the Prairie Island Power facility is done by Xcel and the N.R.C. how can we trust a Gov. agency that really has no oversight other than by itself? The N.R.C. created a task force back in the 60's specifically to target impoverished Reservations to exploit the sovereign Nations for the housing of Nuclear Power facilities to operate outside of the United States jurisdiction. They're the one's that we are trusting to tell us what levels of toxicity are acceptable. No amount of nuclear radiation is acceptable for Humans, Animals, and the Environment. Radiation exposure causes double strand deletions, breaks in our genetic codes. Causing increased suffering from fatal diseases. The only concern Xcel and the N.R.C. has is keeping the facility running and in "good" standing for re-licensing.

The health risks are evident. We have been cared for and studied by a credible medical organization. The Mayo has been studying the effects of our community living in such a close proximity to a Nuclear power plant for about 15 years. This is why I have been able to tell you about the low birth weights and the babies dying. Radioactivity is especially harmful to children. I see it with my own eyes! It may help to have people that actually care to come investigate the suffering the Tribe of Midewaketon Sioux has been going through.

Simple questions for everyone to ask themselves. When is enough enough? The Tribe has been fighting with the State, the Fed, and N.R.C. for 30 some years for something the State wanted to put in our back yard, If the State wanted it so bad why didn't they build themselves a power plant instead of cramming this down the Tribes throat? Because what wasn't acceptable for Americans to be exposed to, was acceptable for the American Indians to be exposed to. Just imagine your self dropping your child off at day Care up the street from a Nuclear power plant and dry cask storage facility. "No Johnny you can't go outside to play, they're releasing the steam at the power plant today, and they recommend we stay inside". We all know staying in the house isn't going to keep us from being exposed to the radiation. It's in our air, our water, our atmosphere, our plants, and animals.

The Washington Dept. of Health and Radiation protection sight says if you are in direct exposure to a contaminated site (A nuclear power plant exposes radiation to the people and environment) you either live or work in or near the contaminated site, Children play near the site, if

people drink or shower with the water, and are not allowed to eat the animals in the area. That is the entire community of Prairie Island! There are signs up around the river telling you you not to consume more than one fish per two week time period. No more than two fish to be consumed per month. This is what the State Gov., Xcel, and the N.R.C., has done to the land, to the animals, and those of us whose culture and people have been affected by this Gov.'s obsession with power.

The wind blows and the sun shines. If Xcel Energy really wants to be "responsible by Nature" they themselves will be against the 20 year re-licensing for the Prairie Island Nuclear power plant in Welch Minnesota. We have the technology, Xcel is a multi bazillion dollar company that has claimed responsibility for Earth's power in they're own words "Xcel Energy, Responsible by Nature"!

I am one of many who think this whole nuclear power thing has always been a bad choice for energy
NO RE-LICENSING FOR ANY OF XCEL'S NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS!

Thank you for your time on this important and impending issue.

Mrs. Ezriel Roach

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ezrie Roach".

wetpawandthefrog@gmail.com

With this letter I'm sending you another perspective.

How Nuclear power works Elanna Ostertag

Some "OK" things about Nuclear power-

Doesn't depend on fossil fuels.

CO2 emissions released by nuclear is minimal compared to coal and natural gas power plants this release still contributes to climate change.

The Nuclear Institute provides us with the information that nuclear power plants would normally produce 2 billion metric tons of CO2 a year if they were to rely on fossil fuels.

But in fact a "properly functioning" Nuclear power plant will releases less radioactivity into the atmosphere then a coal burning plant.

Nuclear is not effected by the fluctuations in oil and gas prices.

Cons of Nuclear power-

Mining for and the purifying process of the element needed for Nuclear, Uranium, has never been a "clean" process.

Transportation of Nuclear fuel has a high contamination risk.

Once this fuel is spent it is highly radioactive and still potentially deadly, not something you can throw away into the dump down the road!

Every year an average of 20 metric tons of high level radioactive waste is generated by one nuclear power plant!

The world makes about 2,000 metric tons of waste a year!

All the waste of Nuclear power emits radiation and heat, this waste will over time corrode any kind of container it is stored in, has a half life of over 4.5 billion years, and is deadly to any nearby plant, animal or human life.

Not only does this source of power emit high-level radioactive waste it also emits low-level radioactive waste off of its radiated parts and equipment which will also need to be stored properly to prevent contamination to their technicians and surrounding communities.

This waste will be cooled for years before being mixed with glass and placed into massive concrete structures that are cooled, unfortunately they may begin in the future to store this waste deep underground so what we don't see, can't hurt us!

But for now this waste gets to be maintained, monitored and guarded so it doesn't leak, explode, or fall into the wrong hands.

All of this costs money, plus the expense to build and open a new plant, the expense of the workers in the plant who bring home the stored nuclear in their body and on their clothes to hug their loved ones when they get home from working at a Nuclear power plant.

People who live down stream from Nuclear power plants are at high risk from being contaminated. The health effects of contamination include "Heart Disease, Cancer, Diabetes, Anemia, Schizophrenia, Ulcers and many other killers (referred to as "Irregularly Inherited Diseases")

-John Gofman M. D., P. H.

why spend the taxpayers dollars on something that harms the world when we have renewable, clean, and efficient means of energy!

Uranium-

Uranium, the ingredient to nuclear fission is always, very slowly going through spontaneous "induced fission" and has been on this planet since it had formed.

This is why Uranium is needed in a nuclear power plant to function.

Even though the half life which is only half of how long it takes to decay half of the atoms in the waste.

Inside the plant.

How the nuclear fission is converted into steam is because of the heating of enriched Uranium.

Enriched Uranium is usually formed into inch long pellets and the same diameter as a dime, then these are gathered into rods that are bundled and submerged into a pool of water inside a pressure vessel.

The water cools the rods, with out this water the Uranium would overheat and melt, the material absorbs neutrons to prevent this.

A mechanism raises and lowers the bundles of rods into and out of the reactor controlling how much heat is produced.

The energy producer is the water as it turns into steam, and the steam powers a turbine that turns to generate power.

The steam then goes through a secondary, intermediate heat exchanger to convert more water into steam with out letting the radioactive water or steam come in contact with the turbine.

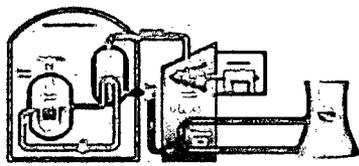
Some reactors have coolant fluid such as gas, carbon dioxide or liquid metal such as sodium or potassium in contact with the reactor core this allows the plant to operate at a higher temperature.

The heated water is put into a cooling water conductor and then into

a cooling tower, every power plant needs a renewable source of water to continuously cool the plant. The used water is then released into the river called a hot release.

That pollutant comes out of the plant, so in fact contaminated water is spilling outing our rivers all the time, there is more going outside of the plants then they tell you about.

Animals then drink from the river and eat plants that grow along the river, they then are contaminated as well.



freeinfosociety.com

The power plant I personally know of in our area is the Nuclear power plant that was built in the early 1970's on Prairie Island Dakota Indian reservation in Welch Minnesota, right on the fork of the Mississippi river just a few hundred yards from this small reservation of around 300 residents.

In February of 1996 there were 13 dry casks of Nuclear waste stored on the reservation on a concrete slab, sitting on a flood plain and on the banks of the Mississippi river.

This waste was supposed to be moved to New Mexico but they didn't want that waste to be contaminating their land so instead they continue to store more and more dry casks of nuclear waste on the Island.

This could easily be washed over in a flood spilling tons of deadly waste into the Mississippi river and into the small Indian community whose day care center is located 500 yards away from this hazardous storage site.

This plant is stressed to be "safe" by Xcel Energy but over the years the power plant has had several hot escapements that didn't receive

Xcel Energy is NOT responsible
by Nature

the national publicity of those surrounded by non-Indian communities.

Elanna L. Ostertag

<http://science.howstuffworks.com/nuclear-power5.htm>

www.ratical.org/radiation/CNR/RICI.html

<http://www.kstrom.net/isk/maps/mn/prairie.htm>

Please DO NOT rely on these Nuclear Power plants. We have so many other options that can help our planet not hurt it! We NEED to use Sun & wind energy it is renewable & safe, WHY NOT?

Thank you,
Elanna L. Ostertag