



May 2, 2011 (4:30 pm)

OFFICE OF SECRETARY
RULEMAKINGS AND
ADJUDICATIONS STAFF

40

May 2, 2011

The Honorable Greg Jaczko
Chairman
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
11555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852

Re: AP1000 Design Certification, Docket ID: NRC-2010-0131

Dear Chairman Jaczko:

On behalf of Green America and our members, I write to strongly urge the Commission to immediately suspend rulemaking for the Westinghouse AP1000 nuclear reactor design certification. It is clear from statements from engineers and other experts that the new reactor, especially its shield building, pose significant safety concerns.

Founded in 1982, Green America is a national membership organization that works to harness economic power—the strength of consumers, investors, businesses, and the marketplace—to create a socially just and environmentally sustainable society. Our 150,000 individual members and 4,000 business members are deeply concerned about our nation's energy needs and the importance of securing safe, renewable energy sources. Clearly, creating a clean energy economy, that protects public and environmental health, must be a national priority.

In the wake of last month's Fukushima nuclear tragedy, the fact that a new reactor design is moving forward should require greater scrutiny than ever. We are aware that the current design proposal includes a single, thin containment layer to block the escape of radiation. We share the concern expressed by Congressman Markey in his March 7, 2011 letter to the Commission that a natural disaster or terrorist attack on the AP1000 "could result in catastrophic core meltdown." The Congressman also notes that the material comprising 60% of the shield building has not passed important physical safety tests and is therefore too brittle. It is unconscionable that any design certification plans would proceed in light of such very real danger.

Approval of the AP1000 design, currently being considered for construction in Georgia, South Carolina, and elsewhere would have profound implications for human and environmental safety. Safety issues need to drive the Commission's decision-making. Green America supports the petition filed by a dozen environmental organizations to suspend rulemaking on the AP1000 until we have definitive analysis of the Fukushima nuclear disaster.

In closing, Green America urges the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to suspend rulemaking on the AP1000 nuclear reactor design and to await the findings on the Fukushima nuclear crisis so that they can inform our nation's nuclear policies going forward. We owe this to our citizens and future generations.

Sincerely yours,

Alisa Gravitz, Executive Director

Rulemaking Comments

From: Fran Teplitz [fteplitz@greenamerica.org]
Sent: Monday, May 02, 2011 2:51 PM
To: Rulemaking Comments
Subject: Docket ID: NRC-2010-0131
Attachments: NRC AP1000.pdf

ATTN: NRC Rulemaking

Attached please find a letter from Green America related to rulemaking for the AP1000 nuclear power plant.

Thank you for posting this online and for considering our concerns as part of the public comment period that is open through May 10, 2011.

Sincerely,
Fran Teplitz

Fran Teplitz
Director, Social Investing & Strategic Outreach
Green America
1612 K St., NW #600
Washington, DC 20006
202-872-5326
www.GreenAmerica.org