

AP1000DCDCEm Resource

From: Ella Melik [ella.melik@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2011 5:31 PM
To: Rulemaking Comments
Subject: Docket ID NRC-2010-0131: Suspend the AP1000 approval

Dear Secretary Vietti-Cook,

The US cannot afford to take any unnecessary risks when building nuclear reactors. Because disaster can occur at any nuclear reactor, the NRC must ensure that it has taken all possible precautions before moving forward with the new Westinghouse AP1000 reactor design considered for construction in Georgia, South Carolina and other states.

Please give serious consideration to lengthening the existing 75-day public comment period on the design for the new AP1000 reactor, given the ongoing crisis in Japan and the review which will take place once the situation is brought under control. I urge the NRC to put the license application on hold until a thorough review of the Japanese accident has been conducted and weaknesses in the AP1000 design have been reviewed in light of the accident.

Please accept the petition filed by the twelve environmental organizations of the AP1000 Oversight Group to suspend rulemaking. To ensure transparency, please include this comment and all others in the formal review proceedings and post them in the NRC's online library so the public can see any expressed concerns.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission's primary concern should be addressing safety concerns, not satisfying the industry. NRC engineer John S. Ma's non-concurrence with the review of the reactor raised the possibility that the AP1000's shield building could shatter "like a glass cup." It would be indefensible for the NRC to move forward without further addressing that weakness. Also, Westinghouse has not satisfactorily proved that the thin steel containment shell over the reactor would be effective during severe accidents or that the reactor could be properly cooled in conditions similar to those at Fukushima.

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Federal Register Notice: 76FR10269
Comment Number: 3404

Mail Envelope Properties (7021307.1303421433025.JavaMail.tomcat)

Subject: Docket ID NRC-2010-0131: Suspend the AP1000 approval
Sent Date: 4/21/2011 5:30:33 PM
Received Date: 4/21/2011 10:17:34 PM
From: Ella Melik

Created By: ella.melik@gmail.com

Recipients:
"Rulemaking Comments" <Rulemaking.Comments@nrc.gov>
Tracking Status: None

Post Office: web5.salsalabs.net

Files	Size	Date & Time
MESSAGE	1813	4/21/2011 10:17:34 PM

Options
Priority: Standard
Return Notification: No
Reply Requested: No
Sensitivity: Normal
Expiration Date:
Recipients Received: