

AP1000DCDCEm Resource

From: Helen Hanna [helenhanna@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2011 11:32 PM
To: Rulemaking Comments
Subject: Docket ID NRC-2010-0131: Suspend the AP1000 approval

Dear Secretary Vietti-Cook,

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

Considering the ongoing crisis in Japan and the review which will take place if and when that situation is brought under control, the current 75-day public comment period on reactor design is insufficient for this new AP1000 reactor. I request that the NRC 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 that accident. To stick with the grossly inadequate 75-day rulemaking comment period would be the height of irresponsibility by the NRC.

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.

Addressing safety concerns should be the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's primary concern, rather than an effort to satisfy 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: 4461

Mail Envelope Properties (3713871.1303443137160.JavaMail.tomcat)

Subject: Docket ID NRC-2010-0131: Suspend the AP1000 approval
Sent Date: 4/21/2011 11:32:17 PM
Received Date: 4/22/2011 12:10:54 AM
From: Helen Hanna

Created By: helenhanna@sbcglobal.net

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

Post Office: web1.salsalabs.net

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