

AP1000DCDCEm Resource

From: Mark Alix [mjalix@googlemail.com]
Sent: Friday, April 22, 2011 8:54 AM
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 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.

Especially considering the ongoing crisis in Japan and the review which will take place when the situation is brought under control, the current 75-day public comment period on the reactor design is insufficient for the 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 the 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, instead of trying to satisfy the industry, should be the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's primary concern.

NRC engineer John S. Ma's non-concurrence with the review of this reactor design 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.

In view of the significant doubts about the safety and viability of this design and in the light of events at Fukushima, I kindly request that you suspend the approval process until the NRC has completed a full re-evaluation of the requirements of reactor design to withstand earthquakes and/or tsunamis and their consequences, taking into account the complete body of scientific and technical evidence available from the Fukushima accident.

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Federal Register Notice: 76FR10269
Comment Number: 7407

Mail Envelope Properties (2909475.1303476848351.JavaMail.tomcat)

Subject: Docket ID NRC-2010-0131: Suspend the AP1000 approval
Sent Date: 4/22/2011 8:54:08 AM
Received Date: 4/22/2011 8:54:09 AM
From: Mark Alix

Created By: mjalix@googlemail.com

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

Post Office: web3.salsalabs.net

Files	Size	Date & Time
MESSAGE	2409	4/22/2011 8:54:09 AM

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