

AP1000DCDCEm Resource

From: Donald & Deanna Barnett [Exprof97@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Friday, April 22, 2011 11:54 AM
To: Rulemaking Comments
Subject: Stop the AP1000 (Docket ID NRC-2010-0131)

Dear Secretary Vietti-Cook,

In the wake of the crisis at Fukushima, it has become clear that 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.

Addressing safety concerns, not satisfying the industry, should be the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's primary concern. 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.

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.

Also, 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.

We have been active in insisting that the nuclear industry provide safeguards to many of the various stages in the process of creating electric energy using nuclear energy since 1975. We are appalled at the lack of any real progress in addressing so many of the safety concerns surrounding nuclear power, all the way from production of the fuel pellets, to the reactors, and, at the end, waste disposal. Currently the cooling ponds in Hanford, Washington, are critically overloaded with spent fuel rods awaiting either reprocessing or disposal despite assurances throughout the intervening 36 years that all the technical problems have been solved. Those promoting nuclear power generation cannot be trusted to tell the truth. We must not proceed to build any more facilities until it is conclusively and publicly demonstrated that all of their claims are true. This they cannot do. Recent events in Japan and what happened at Three Mile Island and later at Chernobyl are warnings about what can and will go wrong with the current technology.

Donald & Deanna Barnett
5638 Strawflower Lane
San Jose, CA 95118

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