

AP1000DCDCEm Resource

From: Herschel Dosier [herscheld@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Friday, April 22, 2011 8:27 PM
To: Rulemaking Comments
Subject: Docket ID NRC-2010-0131: Suspend the AP1000 approval

Dear Secretary Vietti-Cook,

In the winter of 1811/1812 four of the greatest earthquakes ever known to strike North America occurred on the New Madrid fault line, shaking houses in Charleston, South Carolina and knocking plaster off houses in Columbia, South Carolina. Church bells rang in Boston, chimneys toppled in Maine, and homes were severely damaged in St. Louis. Much of the Eastern U.S. was sparsely populated, which is not the case now. Since last September there have been over 800 smaller quakes along the same fault line in Arkansas alone, possibly a precursor to another great and eminent earthquake disaster equivalent to the nightmare in Fukushima, Japan. There are over 17 million people within fifty miles of the Indian Point Power Plant, 38 miles north of New York City.

On the West Coast, two nuclear plants in California alone would incapacitate most of Southern California, including the entire Los Angeles and San Diego metropolitan areas of 23 million people, and possibly affecting over 6 million more people in the San Francisco Bay Area as well. One of these plants, the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant at San Luis Obispo, California, - halfway between Los Angeles and San Francisco - is located FOUR BLOCKS from a fault line. The tsunami resulting from the Sendai, Japan quake struck Hawaii and California, doing tens of millions of dollars worth of damage, though neither of the power plants were damaged – this time. The entire Pacific region was on tsunami alert, and a tsunami could have struck on any Pacific coast, including where the two California reactors are located.

It is the height of insanity to build any new nuclear power plants in the entire Eastern region of the United States, and in fact no new reactors should be approved at this time anywhere in the nation - and all nuclear facilities in the United States should be closed.

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

Mankind has already proved that there is no safe place for nuclear waste. There have already been nuclear accidents in South Carolina and other places like Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and Chernobyl, in the Ukraine. In my high school 45 miles from the nuclear bomb plant in the Texas Panhandle, the Geiger counter in my high school was over the maximum allowable amount of radiation every second of the year. An unusual number of people in that area died from cancer, including two of my grandparents. I myself am a liver cancer survivor, which I suspect was brought on by radiation exposure.

Especially considering the ongoing crisis in Japan and the review which will take place if 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, 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.

Nature has always proven stronger than anything man can design. Nuclear reactors should be replaced with non-lethal safer alternative energy sources such as wind power, solar energy, and wave energy. Mankind has never proven to be able to design a fail-safe nuclear facility. Mankind has never proven itself able to outsmart Nature or provide a permanent counter to any disaster which Nature can provide. Even the reactors in earthquake-prone California are only built to withstand more than a 7.0 quake (San Onofre) or 7.5 (Diablo Canyon) – yet 9.0 (or greater) earthquakes are happening more and more in the past few years. Earth changes are happening with more frequency – world-wide. To shut our eyes to the increasing frequency of natural disasters would be to needlessly invite our own destruction.

Just because mankind can think of some idea like nuclear energy doesn't mean that the idea should be done, or that mankind is the master of that idea – or indeed, ever can be the master of its own fate. A wise Nuclear Regulatory Commission should recognize what any wise person should realize – and that is that humanity must recognize its own limitations in order to survive. To ignore its own limitations, to pretend that ignorant mankind is more powerful or more intelligent than Nature, is to destroy humanity – and possibly all life on this Earth. NASA has provided pictures of buildings and even canals on Mars – yet there are evidently no people there. What happened to them? What obvious fact of nature did they ignore?

Please reconsider nuclear energy in our country – and find it lacking. Please close existing plants and reactors and forbid new ones. Please choose survival.

Thank you for your prompt, exacting, and wise consideration in this serious matter.

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