

AP1000DCDCEm Resource

From: nicholas vanderborgh [n.vanderborgh@comcast.net]
Sent: Thursday, May 05, 2011 1:20 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.

You really need to get in the cradle to grave planning mode. A reactor has a 25 year or so "working lifetime", but the actual lifetime is 1000 years or more. When we calculate profits, we subtract costs from income. However, income occurs during the operational lifetime. Costs persist for centuries. It is totally unjust, criminal I suspect, to dump these costs on those who come next to this part of the planet. We realize that Nations seldom last as long as 300 years; the US will be no exception. Can we really leave a toxic sludge behind? Do we really think we can clean that up? Rocky Flats is a good case in point. It took many billions of dollars to get that part of the earth into a condition that was good enough for "wild life sanctuary", but not farm or housing estate. You know about the half like of Pu.

Just because we can do something, does not mean that we should do everything.

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.

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