

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

BEFORE THE ATOMIC SAFETY AND LICENSING BOARD

_____	)	
In the Matter of	)	
Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC	)	Docket Nos. 52-018 and 52-019
Combined License Application	)	
William States Lee III Units 1 & 2	)	August 11, 2011
_____	)	

**MOTION TO ADMIT NEW CONTENTION REGARDING  
THE SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS OF  
THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION TASK FORCE REPORT ON  
THE FUKUSHIMA DAI-ICHI ACCIDENT**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

Pursuant to 10 C.F.R. § 2.309, the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League (“BREDL”) hereby moves to admit a new contention challenging the adequacy of the Lee Nuclear Station Units 1 & 2 Combined License Application, Environmental Report (the “ER”) on the basis that it fails to address the extraordinary environmental and safety implications of the findings and recommendations raised by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission’s Fukushima Task Force (the “Task Force”) in its report, “Recommendations for Enhancing Reactor Safety in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: The Near-Term Task Force Review of Insights From the Fukushima Dai-ichi Accident” (July 12, 2011) (“Task Force Report”). BREDL respectfully submit that admitting the new contention is necessary to ensure that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (“NRC” or the “Commission”) fulfills its non-discretionary duty under the National Environmental Policy Act (“NEPA”) to consider the new and significant information set forth in the Task Force Report before it issues a Combined License (“COL”) for Lee Units 1 & 2.

This motion is supported by a Certificate Required by 10 C.F.R. § 2.323(b) and standing declarations.

## **II. BACKGROUND**

On June 27, 2008, BREDL filed a petition to intervene in the COL proceeding for Lee Units 1 & 2. On September 22, 2008, this Board found that BREDL had established standing but admitted none of BREDL's contentions and denied the request for an evidentiary hearing.

## **III. DISCUSSION**

To be admitted for hearing, a new contention must satisfy the six general requirements set forth in 10 C.F.R. § 2.309(f)(1), and the timeliness requirements set forth in either 10 C.F.R. § 2.309(f)(2) (governing timely contentions) or 10 C.F.R. § 2.309(c) (governing non-timely contentions). As provided in the accompanying contention, each of the requirements set forth in 10 C.F.R. § 2.309(f)(1) is satisfied. Furthermore, BREDL maintains that this Motion and accompanying contention are timely, and the requirements of 10 C.F.R. § 2.309(f)(2) are also satisfied. In the event this Board determines that this Motion and the accompanying contention are not timely, however, BREDL also maintains that the requirements of 10 C.F.R. § 2.309(c) are satisfied.

### **A. This Motion and the Accompanying Contention Satisfy the Requirements for Admission of a Timely Contention Set Forth in 10 C.F.R. § 2.309(f)(2).**

The NRC has adopted a three-part standard for assessing timeliness. *See* 10 C.F.R. § 2.309(f)(2). The Motion and accompanying contention are timely.

#### **1. The Information Upon Which the Motion and Accompanying Contention are Based was not Previously Available.**

The availability of material information "is a significant factor in a Board's determination of whether a motion based on such information is timely filed." *Houston Lighting & Power Co.*

(South Texas Project, Units 1 & 2), LBP-85-19, 21 NRC 1707, 1723 (1985) (internal citations omitted). This Motion and the accompanying contention are based upon information contained within the Task Force Report, which was not released until July 12, 2011. Before issuance of the Task Force Report, the information material to the contention was simply unavailable.

**2. The Information Upon Which the Motion and Accompanying Contention are Based is Materially Different than Information Previously Available.**

Only five months ago, a nuclear accident occurred at the Fukushima Dai-ichi Nuclear Power Plant. In the wake of the accident, the Task Force was established and instructed by the NRC to provide:

A systematic and methodical review of [NRC] processes and regulations to determine whether the agency should make additional improvements to its regulatory system and to make recommendations to the Commission for its policy direction, in light of the accident at the Fukushima Dai-ichi Nuclear Power Plant.

Task Force Report at vii. In response to that directive, the Task Force made twelve “overarching” recommendations to “strengthen the regulatory framework for protection against natural disasters, mitigation and emergency preparedness, and to improve the effectiveness of NRC’s programs.” *Id.* at viii. In these recommendations the Task Force, for the first time since the Three Mile Island accident occurred in 1979, fundamentally questioned the adequacy of the current level of safety provided by the NRC’s program for nuclear reactor regulation.

In the ER, the Applicant assumes that compliance with existing NRC safety regulations is sufficient to ensure that the environmental impacts of accidents are acceptable. The information in the Task Force Report refutes this assumption and is materially different from the information upon which the ER is based. *See* attached contention and Declaration of Dr. Arjun Makhijani and Dr. Ross McCluney.

**3. The Motion and Accompanying Contention are Timely Based on the Availability of the New Information.**

BREDL has submitted this Motion and accompanying contention in a timely fashion. The NRC customarily recognizes as timely contentions that are submitted within thirty (30) days of the occurrence of the triggering event. *Shaw Areva MOX Services, Inc.* (Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility), LBP-08-10, 67 NRC 460, 493 (2008). The Task Force Report, upon which the contention is based, was published on July 12, 2001. Because they were filed within thirty (30) days of publication of the Task Force Report, this Motion and accompanying contention are timely.

**B. The New Contention Satisfies the Standards For Non-Timely Contentions Set Forth in 10 C.F.R. § 2.309(c).**

Pursuant to § 2.309(c), determination on any “nontimely” filing of a contention must be based on a balancing of eight factors, the most important of which is “good cause, if any, for the failure to file on time.” *Crow Butte Res., Inc.* (North Trend Expansion Project), LBP-08-6, 67 NRC 241 (2008). As set forth below, each of the factors favors admission of the accompanying contention.

**1. Good Cause.**

Good cause for the late filing is the first, and most important element of 10 C.F.R. § 2.309(c)(1). *Private Fuel Storage, L.L.C.* (Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation), CLI-00-02, 51 NRC 77, 79 (2000). Newly arising information has long been recognized as providing the requisite “good cause.” See *Consumers Power Co.* (Midland Plant, Units 1 & 2), LBP-82-63, 16 NRC 571, 577 (1982), citing *Indiana & Michigan Elec. Co.* (Donald C. Cook Nuclear Plant, Units 1 & 2), CLI-72-75, 5 AEC 13, 14 (1972). Thus, the NRC has previously found good cause where (1) a contention is based on new information and, therefore, could not have been

presented earlier, and (2) the intervenor acted promptly after learning of the new information. *Texas Utils. Elec. Co.* (Comanche Peak Steam Electric Station, Units 1 & 2), CLI-92-12, 36 NRC 62, 69-73 (1992).

As noted above, the information on which this Motion and accompanying contention are based is taken from the Task Force Report, which was issued on July 12, 2011 and analyzes NRC processes and regulations in light of the Fukushima accident, an event that occurred a mere five months ago. This Motion and accompanying contention are being submitted less than thirty (30) days after issuance of the Task Force Report.

Accordingly, the BREDL has good cause to submit this Motion and the accompanying contention now.

## **2. Nature of the BREDL' Right to be A Party to the Proceeding.**

BREDL was previously admitted as parties in the Lee COL proceeding, based upon standing declarations from its members. *Southern Nuclear Operating Co.* (Vogtle, Units 3 & 4), ASLBP-09-873-01-COL-BD01 (2009). In support of this Motion, BREDL is submitting declarations from its members showing their standing because of their proximity of each individual's residence to the Lee Nuclear Station. Accordingly, BREDL continues to have a right to be a party to this proceeding.

## **3. Nature of BREDL's Interest in the Proceeding.**

The BREDL seek to protect their members' health, safety, and lives; and the accompanying declarations of members seek to protect their own health, safety, and lives; and each Intervenor seeks to protect the health and safety of the general public and the environment by ensuring that the NRC fulfills its non-discretionary duty under NEPA to consider the new and significant information set forth in the Task Force Report before it issues a COL for Lee Units 1

& 2. There has been no substantial changes to the interests and concerns of BREDL and its members since it was initially admitted as an intervenor. Moreover, as each of the members represented by the BREDL in this proceeding, and the declarants live within fifty (50) miles of the proposed Lee reactors, BREDL continue to have an interest in this proceeding because of the “obvious potential for offsite consequences” to their own or their members’ health and safety. *Diablo Canyon*, 56 NRC at 426-27, citing *Florida Power & Light Co.* (Turkey Point Nuclear Generating Plant, Units 3 and 4), LBP-01-6, 53 NRC 138, 146, *aff’d*, CLI-01-17, 54 NRC 3 (2001).

#### **4. Possible Effect of an Order on BREDL’s Interest in the Proceeding.**

As noted above, BREDL’s interest in a safe, clean, and healthful environment would be served by the issuance of an order requiring the NRC to fulfill its non-discretionary duty under NEPA to consider new and significant information before making a licensing decision. *See Silva v. Romney*, 473 F.2d 287, 292 1st Cir. 1973). Compliance with NEPA ensures that environmental issues are given full consideration in “the ongoing programs and actions of the Federal Government.” *Marsh v. Oregon Natural Res. Council*, 490 U.S. 360, 371 n.14 (1989).

#### **5. Availability of Other Means to Protect the BREDL’s Interests.**

With regard to this factor, the question is not whether other parties may protect BREDL’s interests, but rather whether there are other means by which BREDL may protect their own interests. *Long Island Lighting Co.* (Jamesport Nuclear Power Station, Units 1 & 2), ALAB-292, 2 NRC 631 (1975). Quite simply, no other means exist. Only through this hearing do BREDL have a right that is judicially enforceable to seek compliance by NRC with NEPA before the COL for the proposed Lee reactors is issued, permitting these new reactors to operate and impose severe accident risks on BREDL and the individuals they represent.

**6. Extent the BREDL's Interests are Represented by Other Parties.**

No other party can represent BREDL's interests in protecting the health, safety, and environment of themselves and their members.

**7. Extent That Participation Will Broaden the Issues.**

While BREDL' participation may broaden or delay the proceeding, this factor may not be relied upon to deny this Motion or exclude the contention because the NRC has a non-discretionary duty under NEPA to consider new and significant information that arises before it makes its licensing decision. *Marsh*, 490 U.S. at 373-4.

**8. Extent to which BREDL Will Assist in the Development of a Sound Record.**

BREDL will assist in the development of a sound record, as their contention is supported by the expert opinion of highly qualified experts Dr. Arjun Makhijani and Dr. Ross McCluney. See Declarations of Makhijani and McCluney. *See also* Pacific Gas & Elec. Co. (Diablo Canyon Power Plant Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation), CLI-08-01, 67 NRC 1, 6 (2008) (finding that, when assisted by experienced counsel and experts, participation of a petitioner may be reasonably expected to contribute to the development of a sound record). Furthermore, as a matter of law, NEPA requires consideration of the new and significant information set forth in the Task Force Report. *See* 10 C.F.R. § 51.92(a)(2). A sound record cannot be developed without such consideration.

**X. The New Contention Satisfies the Standards For Admission of Contentions Set Forth in 10 C.F.R. § 2.309(f)(1).**

As discussed in the accompanying contention, the standards for admission of a contention set forth in 10 C.F.R. § 2.309(f)(1) are satisfied.

## CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, this Motion should be granted and the accompanying contention admitted.

Respectfully submitted this 11<sup>th</sup> day of August 2011.

/signed electronically by/  
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## CERTIFICATE REQUIRED BY 10 C.F.R. § 2.323(b)

I certify that on August 10, 2011, I contacted counsel for the applicant and the NRC Staff in an attempt to obtain their consent to this motion. The applicant does not consent to the motion; NRC Staff did not take a position.

/signed electronically by/  
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**CONTENTION REGARDING NEPA REQUIREMENT TO ADDRESS  
SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS OF  
THE FUKUSHIMA TASK FORCE REPORT**

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**I. INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY**

Pursuant to 10 C.F.R. § 2.309(f)(1), the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League (“BREDL”), assert a new contention seeking consideration of new and significant information relevant to the environmental analysis for the proposed licensing of two new reactors at the Lee Nuclear Station. In the contention set forth in Section II below, BREDL request a hearing on the significant – indeed extraordinary – safety and environmental implications for the Lee licensing decision of the conclusions and recommendations of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission’s Near-Term Task Force (the “Task Force”). The contention is supported by the expert declaration of Dr. Arjun Makhijani of the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research and Dr. Ross McCluney of SunPine Consultants. The contention is also supported by a Motion to Admit a New Contention.

The Task Force, a group of highly qualified and experienced Nuclear Regulatory Commission (“NRC” or the “Commission”) staff members selected by the Commission to evaluate the regulatory implications of the Fukushima Dai-ichi accident, has issued a

report recommending the NRC strengthen its regulatory scheme for protecting public health and safety by increasing the scope of accidents that fall within the “design basis” and are therefore subject to mandatory safety regulation. Recommendations for Enhancing Reactor Safety in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: The Near-Term Task Force Review of Insights from the Fukushima Dai-ichi Accident at 20-21 (July 12, 2011) (“Task Force Report”). The Task Force’s recommendation to establish mandatory safety regulations for severe accidents has extremely grave environmental and safety implications because it would not be logical or necessary to recommend an upgrade to the basic level of protection currently afforded by NRC regulations unless those existing regulations were insufficient to ensure adequate protection of public health, safety, and the environment throughout the licensed life of nuclear reactors. The recommendation is all the more grave because it constitutes the second warning that the Commission has received regarding the need to expand the scope of design basis accidents. The first warning, issued by the Rogovin Report over thirty years ago, following the Three Mile Island accident and explained in more detail in Section II below, essentially went unheeded. *Id.* at 16-17. As the Task Force urges, “the time has come” to make fundamental changes to the NRC’s program for establishing minimum safety requirements for nuclear reactors. *Id.* at 18.

Moreover, the Task Force’s recommendation that the scope of mandatory safety regulations be expanded to include severe accidents raises significant environmental concerns in this proceeding, including that (1) the risks of operating the proposed Lee reactors are higher than estimated in the Environmental Report (the “ER”) for proposed Lee Units 1 & 2 previous environmental analysis of the relative costs and benefits of

severe accident mitigation alternatives (“SAMAs”) is fundamentally inadequate because those measures are, in fact, necessary to assure adequate protection of the public health and safety and, therefore, should be imposed without regard to their cost.

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (“NEPA”), the analysis demanded by this contention may not be deferred until after Lee is licensed. Given that the NRC Commissioners have postponed taking action on the Task Force’s recommendations, admission of this contention constitutes the only way of ensuring that the environmental implications of the Task Force recommendations are taken into account in the licensing decision for Lee Units 1 & 2.

BREDL wishes to point out that this contention is substantially similar to contentions and comments that are being filed this week in other pending reactor licensing and re-licensing cases and standardized design certification proceedings. In addition, BREDL herein support the other individuals and organizations in a rulemaking petition seeking to suspend any regulations that would preclude full consideration of the environmental implications of the Task Force Report filed in several of the licensing dockets. Finally, in an Emergency Petition, now pending before the Commission for nearly four months, many of the same organizations and individuals previously asked the Commission to suspend its licensing decisions while it evaluated the environmental implications of the Fukushima accident and to establish procedures for the fair and meaningful consideration of those issues in licensing hearings. Emergency Petition to Suspend All Pending Reactor Licensing Decisions and Related Rulemaking Decisions Pending Investigation of Lessons learned From Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station Accident (April 14-18, 2011) (the “Emergency Petition”).

In the aggregate, these contentions, rulemaking comments, and the rulemaking petition follow up on the Emergency Petition's demand that the NRC comply with NEPA by addressing the lessons of the Fukushima accident in its environmental analyses for licensing decisions. Having received no response to their Emergency Petition, the signatories to the Emergency Petition now seek consideration of the Task Force's far-reaching conclusions and recommendations in each individual licensing proceeding, including the instant case.

The BREDL recognizes that given the sweeping scope of the Task Force conclusions and recommendations, it may be more appropriate for the NRC to consider them in generic rather than site-specific environmental proceedings. That is for the NRC to decide. *Baltimore Gas & Electric Co. v. Natural Resources Defense Council*, 462 U.S. 87, 100 (1983). It is the NRC, and not the public, which is responsible for compliance with NEPA. *Duke Power Co. et al. (Catawba Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2)*, CLI-83-19, 17 NRC 1041, 1049 (1983).

### **Standing**

Pursuant to 10 CFR § 2.309(c) and (d), a request for hearing or petition for leave to intervene must address the nature of the petitioner's right to be a party and standing to intervene. Attached to this brief are recent declarations of standing submitted by 3 individuals whose homes and property are within 50 miles of Plant Vogtle and who have authorized Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League to represent their interests in this matter.

**II. BREDL' NEW CONTENTION SATISFIES THE REQUIREMENTS OF 10 C.F.R. 2.309 (f)(1).**

**1. Statement of Contention.**

The ER for Lee Units 1 & 2 fails to satisfy the requirements of NEPA because it does not address the new and significant environmental implications of the findings and recommendations raised by the NRC's Fukushima Task Force Report. As required by NEPA and the NRC regulations, these implications must be addressed in the ER.

**2. Brief Explanation of the Basis for the Contention.**

**The Task Force Report provides critical analysis and information.**

This contention is based on the Task Force Report, in which the Commission instructed the Task Force to provide:

A systematic and methodical review of [NRC] processes and regulations to determine whether the agency should make additional improvements to its regulatory system and to make recommendations to the Commission for its policy direction, in light of the accident at the Fukushima Dai-ichi Nuclear Power Plant.

Task Force Report at vii. In response to that directive, the Task Force prepared a detailed history of the NRC's program for regulation of safety and public health and evaluated that program in light of the experience of the Fukushima accident.

The Task Force then assessed the risk posed by "continued operation and continued licensing activities" for U.S. nuclear plants. Applying the NRC's standard for whether nuclear plants pose an "imminent risk" such that they should be shut down immediately, *see, e.g., Yankee Atomic Electric Co.* (Yankee Nuclear Power Station), CLI-96-6, 43 NRC 123, 128 (1996) (finding no "imminent hazard" that would warrant shutdown of a reactor), the Task Force found that no imminent risk was posed by operation or licensing. *Id.* at 18. In addition, the Task Force concluded that U.S. reactors

meet the statutory standard for security, *i.e.*, they are “not inimical to the common defense and security.” *Id.* at 18; *see also* 42 U.S.C. § 2133(d) (forbidding the NRC from licensing reactors if their operation would be “inimical to the common defense and security”). Notably, however, the Task Force did not report a conclusion that licensing of reactors would not be “inimical to public health and safety,” as the AEA requires for licensing of reactors. 42 U.S.C. § 2133.

Instead, the Task Force concluded that the regulatory system on which the NRC relies to make the safety findings that the AEA requires for licensing of reactors must be strengthened by raising the level of safety that is minimally required for the protection of public health and safety:

In response to the Fukushima accident and the insights it brings to light, the Task Force is recommending actions, some general, some specific, that it believes would be a reasonable, well-formulated set of actions *to increase the level of safety associated with adequate protection of the public health and safety.*

*Id.* at 18 (emphasis added). In particular, the Task Force found that “the NRC’s safety approach is incomplete without a strong program for dealing with the unexpected, including severe accidents.” *Id.* at 20. Therefore, the Task Force recommended that the NRC incorporate severe accidents into the “design basis” and subject it to mandatory safety regulations. In order to upgrade the design basis, the Task Force also recommended that the NRC undertake new safety investigations and impose design changes, equipment upgrades, and improvements to emergency planning and operating procedures. *See, e.g.*, Task Force Report at 73-75.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The Task Force Report contains twelve “overarching” recommendations, which are summarized on pages 69-70.

The Task Force also found that the Fukushima accident was not the first warning the NRC had received that it needed to strengthen its safety program in order to provide an adequate level of protection to public health and safety. After the Three Mile Island accident in 1979, an independent body appointed to investigate the accident's implications, headed by Mitchell Rogovin of the NRC's Special Inquiry Group, recommended that the NRC "[e]xpand the spectrum of design basis accidents." *Id.* at 16. But the NRC did little to follow the recommendations of the Rogovin Report. While it "encouraged licensees to search for vulnerabilities" in their plant designs through Individual Plant Examination ("IPE") and Individual Plant Examination for External Events ("IPEEE") programs and encouraged the development of severe accident mitigation guidelines ("SAMGs"), "the Commission did not take action to require the IPEs, IPEEEs, or SAMGs." *Id.* Thus, the Task Force concluded that:

While the Commission has been partially responsive to recommendations calling for requirements to address beyond-design-basis accidents, the NRC has not made fundamental changes to the regulatory approach for beyond-design-basis events and severe accidents for operating reactors.

*Id.* at 17. Looking back on the Commission's failure to heed the Rogovin Report's recommendations, the Task Force urged that "the time has come" when NRC safety regulations must be "reviewed, evaluated and changed, as necessary, to insure (sic) that they continue to address the NRC's requirements to provide reasonable assurance of adequate protection of public health and safety." *Id.* at 18.

To finally fulfill the Rogovin Report's recommendation, a need now re-confirmed by the Fukushima Task Force, would require a major re-evaluation and overhaul of the NRC's regulatory program. As the Task Force recognized, the great majority of the NRC's current regulations do not impose mandatory safety requirements on severe

accidents, and severe accident measures are adopted only on a “voluntary” basis or through a “patchwork” of requirements. *Id.*

The lack of a program for mandatory regulation of severe accidents is clearly evident from the regulations themselves. The Part 50 regulations, which establish fundamental safety requirements for all reactors (including the current generation and the proposed new generation), are based on a “design basis” that does not include severe accidents. *Id.* at 16. Even the NRC’s Part 52 regulations for new reactors do not contain mandatory requirements for severe accident mitigation features. While the Part 52 regulations require combined license applicants to submit analyses of measures to mitigate severe accidents, Part 52 contains no standards for the adequacy of such analyses. In addition, the Commission has also stated that Part 52 severe accident mitigation measures, which must be described under the NRC’s safety regulations in 10 C.F.R. §§ 52.47(a)(23) and 52.79(a)(38), are subject to cost-benefit analysis. *See, e.g.,* Statement of Considerations (“SOC”) for AP1000 design certification rule, 10 C.F.R. Part 52 Appendix B, 71 Fed. Reg. 4,464, 4,469 (January 27, 2006): As stated in that notice:

Westinghouse’s evaluation of various design alternatives to prevent and mitigate severe accidents does not constitute design requirements. The Commission’s assessment of this information is discussed in Section VII (sic) of this SOC on environmental impacts.

Section VI of the SOC, in turn, states that the NRC has evaluated severe accident mitigation alternatives using a cost-benefit analysis:

In addition, as part of the environmental assessment for the AP1000 design, the NRC reviewed Westinghouse’s evaluation of various design alternatives to prevent and mitigate severe accidents in Appendix 1B of the AP1000 DCD Tier 2. Based upon review of Westinghouse’s evaluation, the Commission finds that: (1) Westinghouse identified a reasonably complete set of potential design alternatives

to prevent and mitigate severe accidents for the AP1000 design; (2) *none of the potential design alternatives are justified on the basis of cost-benefit considerations*; and (3) it is unlikely that other design changes would be identified and justified in the future on the basis of cost-benefit considerations, because the estimated core damage frequencies for the AP1000 are very low on an absolute scale. These issues are considered resolved for the AP1000 design.

71 Fed. Reg. at 4,477 (emphasis added). If, as recommended by the Task Force, the design basis had been upgraded to include severe accidents, the severe accident mitigation measures considered under 10 C.F.R. §§ 52.47(a)(23) and 52.79(a)(38) in the AP1000 design certification rulemaking would have been required if they were found to be necessary to ensure adequate protection of public health and safety, and it would have been unlawful to apply cost-benefit analysis to those measures. *Union of Concerned Scientists v. NRC*, 824 F.2d 108, 120 (D.C. Cir. 1987).

Therefore, the NRC's current regulatory scheme requires significant re-evaluation and revision in order to expand or upgrade the design basis for reactor safety as recommended by the Task Force Report. The fact that this effort has been postponed for thirty years makes the scope of the required undertaking all the more massive and urgent.

### **The National Environmental Policy Act requires a “close look.”**

The contention is also based on NEPA, “our basic national charter for protection of the environment.” 40 C.F.R § 1500.1(a). NEPA requires a federal agency to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for any “major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.” 42 U.S.C. § 4332(2)(C)(i). This duty to carefully consider information regarding a project's environmental impacts is non-discretionary. *Silva v. Romney*, 473 F.2d 287, 292 (1st Cir. 1973). Federal agencies are

held to a “strict standard of compliance” with the Act’s requirements. *Calvert Cliff’s Coordinating Commission v. AEC*, 449 F.2d 1109, 1112 (D.C. Cir. 1971).

NEPA and the Council on Environmental Quality (“CEQ”) regulations implementing NEPA are intended to ensure that environmental considerations are “infused into the ongoing programs and actions of the Federal Government.” *Marsh v. Oregon Natural Res. Council*, 490 U.S. 360, 371 n.14 (1989). Thus, NEPA imposes on agencies a continuing obligation to gather and evaluate new information relevant to the environmental impact of its actions. *Warm Springs Dam Task Force v. Gribble*, 621 F.2d 1017, 1023-24 (9th Cir. 1980) (citing 42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(A), (B); *Essex County Preservation Ass’n v. Campbell*, 536 F.2d 956, 960-61 (1st Cir. 1976); *Society for Animal Rights, Inc. v. Schlesinger*, 512 F.2d 915, 917-18 (D.C. Cir. 1975)). “An agency that has prepared an EIS cannot simply rest on the original document. The agency must be alert to new information that may alter the results of its original environmental analysis, and continue to take a “hard look” at the environmental effects of [its] planned action, even after a proposal has received initial approval.” *Friends of the Clearwater v. Dombeck*, 222 F.3d 552, 557-58 (9th Cir. 2000) (quoting *Marsh*, 490 U.S. at 373-74).

In order to aid the Commission in complying with NEPA, each applicant shall submit to the Commission an environmental report. *See* 10 C.F.R. §§ 51.14; 51.45. The ER must contain a description of the proposed action, a statement of its purposes, and a description of the environment affected. *Id.* § 51.45 (b). Further, the ER must discuss the impact of the proposed action on the environment, any adverse environmental effects which cannot be avoided should the proposal be implemented, alternatives to the proposed action, the relationship between local short-term uses of man’s environment and

the maintenance and enhancement of long-term productivity, and any reversible and irretrievable commitments of resources which would be involved in the proposed action should it be implemented. *Id.* § 51.45 (b)(5). The ER must also contain an analysis that considers and balances the environmental effects of the proposed action, the environmental impacts of alternatives to the proposed action, and alternatives available for reducing or avoiding adverse environmental effects. *Id.* § 51.45 (c). An environmental report for the licensing action contemplated in this instance must also include consideration of the economic, technical, and other benefits and costs of the proposed action and its alternatives. *Id.* The environmental report must to the fullest extent practicable, quantify the various factors considered and contain sufficient data to aid the Commission in its development of an independent analysis. *Id.*

Within this regulatory framework, “[t]he Commission recognizes *a continuing obligation* to conduct its domestic licensing and related regulatory functions in a manner which is both receptive to environmental concerns and consistent with the Commission’s responsibility as an independent regulatory agency for protecting the radiological health and safety of the public.” *Id.* § 51.10 (b) (emphasis added).

### **Task Force Report Meets Standard for New and Significant Information.**

NEPA requires federal agencies to supplement their NEPA documentation when “there are significant new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed action or its impacts.” 40 C.F.R. § 1509(c)(1)(ii). A federal agency’s *continuing duty* to take a “hard look” at the environmental effects of their actions requires they consider, evaluate, and make a reasoned determination about the significance of this new information and prepare supplemental NEPA documentation

accordingly. *Warm Springs Task Force v. Gribble*, 621 F.2d at 1023-24; *Stop H-3 Association v. Dole*, 740 F.2d 1442, 1463-64 (9th Cir. 1984). The need to supplement under NEPA when there is new and significant information is also found throughout the NRC regulations. See 10 C.F.R. §§ 51.92 (a)(2); 51.50(c)(iii), 51.53(b), 51.53(c)(3)(iv).

The conclusions and recommendations presented in the Task Force Report constitute “new and significant information” whose environmental implications must be considered before the NRC may make a decision that approves operation of Lee Units 1 & 2. First, the information is “new” because it stems directly from the Fukushima accident, which occurred only five months ago and for which the special study commissioned by the Commission has only just been issued.

Second, the information is “significant” because it raises an extraordinary level of concern regarding the manner in which the proposed operation of Lee Units 1 & 2 “impacts public health and safety.” See 40 C.F.R. § 1508.27(b)(2). For the first time since the Three Mile Island accident occurred in 1979, a highly respected group of scientists and engineers within the NRC Staff has fundamentally questioned the adequacy of the current level of safety provided by the NRC’s program for nuclear reactor regulation. NEPA demands that federal agencies “insure the professional integrity, including the scientific integrity, of the discussions and analyses” included in an EIS<sup>2</sup> and disclose “all major points of view on the environmental impacts” including any “responsible opposing view.”<sup>3</sup> Courts have found that an EIS that fails to disclose and respond to expert opinions concerning the hazards of a proposed action, particularly those opinions of the agency’s own experts, are “fatally deficient” and run contrary to NEPA’s

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<sup>2</sup> 40 C.F.R. § 1502.24.

<sup>3</sup> 40 C.F.R. §§ 1502.9(a), (b)

“hard look” requirement.<sup>4</sup> As a result, the NRC must revisit any conclusions in the Lee ER based on the assumption that compliance with NRC safety regulations is sufficient to ensure that environmental impacts of accidents are acceptable.

### **The ER Must Be Supplemented to Consider Additional Design-Basis Accidents that Have the Potential for Releases to the Environment.**

The Lee ER states that the radiological consequences of design basis accidents are assessed to demonstrate that new units can be sited at Lee without undue risk to the health and safety of the public (7.1.2) and concludes that any health effects resulting from the design basis accidents are negligible (7.1.4). The findings of the Task Force Report call into question whether this represents a full, accurate description and examination of all the design basis accidents having the potential for releases to the environment. *See* Makhijani Declaration at 7-10. If the design basis for the reactor does not incorporate accidents that should be considered in order to satisfy the adequate protection standard, then it is not possible to reach a conclusion that the design of the reactor adequately protects against accident risks. *See* Makhijani Declaration at 9.

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<sup>4</sup> *Center for Biological Diversity v. United States Forest Service*, 349 F.3d 1157 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2003) (finding an EIS’s failure to disclose and discuss responsible opposing scientific viewpoints violated NEPA and the implementing regulations); *Seattle Audubon Society v. Moseley*, 798 F.Supp. 1473, 1479 (W.D. Wa. 1992) aff’d sub nom *Seattle Audubon Society v. Espy*, 998 F.2d 699 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1993) (quoting *Friends of the Earth v. Hall*, 693 F.Supp. 904, 934 (W.D. Wa. 1988) (“[a]n EIS that fails to disclose and respond to ‘the opinions held by well respected scientists concerning the hazards of the proposed action...is fatally deficient.’”)); *Western Watersheds Project v. Kraayenbrink*, 632 F.3d 472, 487 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2010) (finding that agency failed to take a “hard look” under NEPA when it ignored concerns raised by its own experts). *See also* *Blue Mtns. Biodiversity Project v. Blackwood*, 161 F.3d 1208, 1213 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1998) (noting that an agency’s failure to discuss and consider an independent scientific report’s recommendations “lends weight to [plaintiff’s] claim that the [agency] did not take the requisite ‘hard look’ at the environmental consequences” of the project).

**The ER Must Be Supplemented in Light of the Task Force Findings that Certain Accidents Formerly Classified as Severe Should Be Incorporated into the Design Basis.**

By recommending the incorporation of accidents formerly classified as “severe” or “beyond design basis” into the design basis, the Task Force effectively recommends a complete overhaul of the NRC’s system for mitigating severe accidents through consideration of SAMAs. *See* 10 C.F.R. § 51.45(c). As the Task Force recognizes, currently the NRC does not impose measures for the mitigation of severe accidents unless they are shown to be cost-beneficial or unless they are adopted voluntarily. Task Force Report at 15. *See also* 10 C.F.R. §§ 51.71(d); 51.75(c)(2) (allowing EISs for combined license applications (“COLAs”) that rely on certified standardized designs to reference the severe accident mitigation analyses for those designs).<sup>5</sup> But the Task Force recommends that severe accident mitigation measures should be adopted into the design basis, *i.e.*, the set of regulations adopted *without regard to their cost* as fundamentally required for all NRC standards that set requirements for adequate protection of health and safety. *Union of Concerned Scientists v. NRC*, 824 F.2d 108, 120 (D.C. Cir. 1987). Thus, the values assigned to the cost-benefit analysis for Lee SAMAs, as described in Section 7.3 of the ER, must be re-evaluated in light of the Task Force’s conclusion that the value of SAMAs is so high that they should be elected as a matter of course.

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<sup>5</sup> *See also* Memorandum from NRC Staff to AP1000 and ESBWR design-Centered Working Groups re: Summary of the March 22 and 23, 2007, Meeting to Discuss pre-Combined License Application Issues (April 23, 2007) (suggesting that some SAMAs for proposed reactors with standardized designs should be included in the design application and some should be included in COLAs).

Were SAMAs imposed as mandatory measures, the outcome of the ER and subsequently the EIS for Lee Units 1 & 2 could be affected significantly in two major respects. First, severe accident mitigative measures now rejected as too costly may be required, thus substantially improving the safety of the Lee operation if it is licensed. Second, consideration of the costs of mandatory mitigative measures could affect the overall cost-benefit analysis for the reactor.<sup>6</sup> As discussed in Dr. Makhijani's declaration, these costs may be significant, showing that other alternatives such as the no-action alternative and other alternative electricity production sources may be more attractive.<sup>7</sup> As the fundamental purposes of NEPA are: (1) to guarantee that the government takes a "hard look" at all of the environmental consequences of proposed federal actions before the actions occur, *Robertson v. Methow Valley Citizens Council*, 490 U.S. 332, 350 (1989); and (2) to "guarantee that the relevant information will be made available to the larger audience that may also play a role in both the

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<sup>6</sup> See 10 C.F.R. § 51.45 (c) (explaining that environmental reports should also include consideration of the economic, technical, and other benefits and costs of the proposed action and its alternatives).

<sup>7</sup> NEPA requires the NRC to include in its EIS a "detailed statement . . . on . . . alternatives to the proposed action." 42 U.S.C. § 4332(C)(iii). The alternatives analysis should address "the environmental impacts of the proposal and the alternatives in comparative form, thus sharply defining the issues and providing a clear basis for the choice among options by the decisionmaker and the public." 40 C.F.R. § 1502.14. This analysis must "rigorously explore and objectively evaluate all reasonable alternatives." 40 C.F.R. § 1502.14(a). Agencies must consider three types of alternatives, which include a no action alternative, other reasonable courses of actions, and mitigation measures not in the proposed action. 40 C.F.R. § 1508.25. The purpose of this section is "to insist that no major federal project should be undertaken without intense consideration of other more ecologically sound courses of action, including shelving the entire project, or of accomplishing the same result by entirely different means." *Environmental Defense Fund v. Corps of Engineers*, 492 F.2d 1123, 1135 (5th Cir. 1974). "The existence of a viable but unexamined alternative renders an [EIS] inadequate." *Natural Resources Defense Council v. U.S. Forest Service*, 421 F.3d 797, 813 (9th Cir. 2005) (quoting *Citizens for a Better Henderson v. Hodel*, 768 F.2d 1051, 1057 (9th Cir. 1985)).

decisionmaking process and the implementation of that decision,” *id.* at 349, the NRC cannot meet the fundamental purposes of NEPA if it does not include all of the costs associated with required mitigative measures. *See Sierra Club v. Sigler*, 695 F.2d 957, 979 (5<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1983) (“There can be no ‘hard look’ at the costs and benefits unless all costs are disclosed.”).

**The ER Must Be Supplemented to Include a Discussion of the Task Force Report’s Recommended Measures to Ensure the Plant’s Protection From Seismic and Flooding Events.**

Following the devastating events in Japan, the Task Force Report explained the importance of protecting structures, systems and components (SSCs) of nuclear reactors from natural phenomena, including seismic and flooding hazards:

Protection from natural phenomena such seismic and flooding is critical for safe operation of nuclear power plants due to potential common-cause failures and significant contribution to core damage frequency from external events. Failure to adequately protect SSC’s important to safety from appropriate design-basis natural phenomena with appropriate safety margins has the potential for common-cause failures and significant consequences as demonstrated at Fukushima. Task Force Report at 30.

Yet, the Task Force found that significant differences may exist between plants in the way they protect against design-basis natural phenomena (including seismic and flooding hazards) and the safety margin provided. Task Force Report at 29. For instance, while tsunami hazards have been considered in the design basis for operating plants sited on the Pacific Ocean, the same cannot be said for those sited on the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico. *Id.* Further, as detailed by Dr. Ross McCluney, seismic seiches—standing waves on rivers, reservoirs and lakes caused by disturbances from tectonic activity and earthquakes—may occur at great distances from the epicenter of the

initiating seismic event; they are continental and even global in their effect on bodies of water. For example, the Alaska earthquake of March 1964 caused seismic seiches in water bodies across North America. The locus of the greatest density of seiches caused by the Alaska Earthquake was the southeastern United States, with the greatest number in the states bordering the Gulf of Mexico. According to a US Geological Survey report, seiches as high as 1.8 meters were registered on the Gulf Coast, and hundreds of smaller seiches were recorded in the coterminous states. See McCluney Declaration.

In addition to environmental considerations, there are additional safety requirements which the NRC will need to address. General Design Criteria 2 requires *inter alia* that structures, systems and components be designed to withstand the effects of natural phenomena such as floods, tsunamis, and seiches and still perform their safety functions. Appendix A of 10 CFR Part 100, "Seismic and Geologic Siting Criteria for Nuclear Power Plants," was established to provide detailed criteria to evaluate the suitability of proposed sites.

The Task Force recommended that licensees reevaluate the seismic and flooding hazards at their sites and if necessary update the design basis and SSCs important to safety to protect against the updated hazards. Task Force Report at 30.

The ER must be supplemented in light of this new and significant information. The Task Force's findings and recommendations are directly relevant to environmental concerns and have a bearing on the proposed action and its impacts as they point to the need for a reevaluation of the seismic and flooding hazards at the Lee site, a "hard look" at the environmental consequences such hazards could pose, and an examination of what,

if any, design measures could be implemented (i.e. through NEPA’s requisite “alternatives” analysis) to ensure that the public is adequately protected from these risks.

**The ER Must Be Supplemented to Include a Discussion of the Additional Mitigation Measures Recommended by the Task Force Report.**

“The discussion of steps that can be taken to mitigate adverse environmental consequences plays an important role in the environmental analysis under NEPA.” *Robertson v. Methow Valley Citizens Council*, 490 U.S. 332, 351 (1989); *see also* [https://www.lexis.com/research/buttonTFLink?\\_m=f56bb90b7c8ef723b99d2710cbf85f88&\\_xfercite=%3ccite%20cc%3d%22USA%22%3e%3c%21%5bCDATA%5b960%20F.2d%201515%5d%5d%3e%3c%2fcite%3e&\\_butType=4&\\_butStat=0&\\_butNum=62&\\_butInline=1&\\_butinfo=40%20CFR%201502](https://www.lexis.com/research/buttonTFLink?_m=f56bb90b7c8ef723b99d2710cbf85f88&_xfercite=%3ccite%20cc%3d%22USA%22%3e%3c%21%5bCDATA%5b960%20F.2d%201515%5d%5d%3e%3c%2fcite%3e&_butType=4&_butStat=0&_butNum=62&_butInline=1&_butinfo=40%20CFR%201502). (stating that an EIS must contain “means to mitigate adverse environmental impacts”). There must be a “reasonably complete discussion of possible mitigation measures.” *Robertson*, 490 U.S. at 352. Mitigation measures may be found insufficient when the agency fails to study the efficacy of the proposed mitigation, fails to take certain steps to ensure the efficacy of the proposed mitigation (such as including mandatory conditions in permits), or fails to consider alternatives in the event that the mitigation measures fail. *Id.*

The Task Force Report makes several significant findings when it comes to increasing and improving mitigation measures at new reactors and recommends a number of specific steps licensees could take in this regard. These recommendations include strengthening SBO mitigation capability at all operating and new reactors for design-basis and beyond-design-basis external events, (Section 4.2.1), requiring reliable hardened vent designs in BWR facilities with Mark I and Mark II containments (Section

4.2.2), enhancing spent fuel pool makeup capability and instrumentation for the spent fuel pool (Section 4.2.4), strengthening and integrating onsite emergency response capabilities such as EOPs, SAMGs, and EDMGs. (Section 4.2.5), and mitigation measures for multi-unit accidents. *See also* Makhijani Declaration, pars. 18-24. Accordingly, the ER must be supplemented to consider the use of these additional mitigation measures to reduce the project's environmental impacts. *See* 40 C.F.R. §§ 1502.14(f), 1502.16, 1508.25 (b)(3)).

**NEPA Requires for Prior Consideration of Environmental Impacts.**

The Task Force urges that some of its recommendations be considered before certain licensing decisions are made. For instance, the Task Force concludes that Recommendation 4 (proposing new requirements for prolonged station blackout (“SBO”) mitigation) and Recommendation 7 (proposing measures for spent fuel pool makeup capability and instrumentation) should apply to all design certifications or to COL applicants if the recommended requirements are not addressed in the referenced certified design. Task Force Report at 71. The Task Force recommends that design certifications and COLs under active staff review address this recommendation “before licensing.” *Id.* at 72.

BREDL respectfully submits that this is the appropriate *and required* approach for NEPA consideration of Recommendations 4 and 7 and all of the Task Force's remaining conclusions and recommendations. Before issuing a license for Lee Units 1 & 2, for example, the NRC must evaluate the relative costs and benefits of adopting Recommendations 4 and 7 in light of the NRC's increased understanding regarding accident risks and the strength of its regulatory program to prevent or mitigate them. And

the NRC must apply the same analysis to all of the recommendations, not just Recommendations 4 and 7. NEPA requires the NRC to address the environmental implications of the Task Force's analysis *before* making a licensing decision for Lee, in order to ensure that "important effects [of the licensing decision] will not be overlooked or underestimated only to be discovered after resources have been committed or the die otherwise cast." *Robertson*, 490 U.S. at 349. *See also* 40 C.F.R. §§ 1500.1(c), 1502.1, 1502.14. The NRC's obligation to comply with NEPA in this respect is independent of and in addition to the NRC's responsibilities under the AEA, and must be enforced to the "fullest extent possible." *Calvert Cliffs Coordinating Committee*, 449 F.2d at 1115. *See also Limerick Ecology Action v. NRC*, 869 F.2d 719, 729 (3rd Cir. 1989) (citing *Public Service Co. of New Hampshire v. NRC*, 582 F.2d 77, 86 (1st Cir. 1978)). Under NEPA, therefore, the Commission is required to address the Task Force's findings and recommendations as they pertain to Lee Units 1 & 2 before making a licensing decision, regardless of whether it does or does not choose to do so in the context of its AEA-based regulations.

Of course the Commission could moot the contention by adopting all of the Task Force's recommendations. *See Citizens for Safe Power v. NRC*, 524 F.2d 1291, 1299 (D.C. Cir. 1975). However, a majority of the Commissioners has voted not to do so immediately. *See* Notation Vote Response Sheets re: SECY-11-0093, Near-Term Report and Recommendations for Agency Actions Following the Events in Japan, posted on the NRC's website at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/commission/cvr/2011/>. Thus, while the NRC may eventually address the Task Force's recommendations in the context of its AEA-based regulatory scheme, the Commission has given no indication

that it intends to address any of the Task Force’s conclusions in its prospective licensing decisions. In the absence of any AEA-based review of the Task Force’s conclusions, the Lee ER must be supplemented in order to meet NEPA’s goal that the NRC’s licensing decision for Lee Units 1 & 2 will be “based on an accurate understanding of the environmental consequences of [its] actions.” *Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.* (Indian Point Nuclear Generating Station, Units 2 and 3), LBP-11-17, slip op. at 17 (July 14, 2011).

**3. Demonstration that the Contention is Within the Scope of the Proceeding.**

The contention is within the scope of the proceeding because it seeks compliance with NEPA and NRC-implementing regulations, which must be complied with before Lee Units 6 and 7 may be licensed.

**4. Demonstration that the Contention is Material to the Findings NRC Must Make to License Lee Units 1 & 2.**

As demonstrated above in Section B, this contention challenges the NRC’s failure to fully comply with NEPA and federal regulations for the implementation of NEPA in its EIS for the proposed Lee reactors. Unless the NRC complies with the procedural requirements of NEPA that are discussed in the contention, it cannot make a valid finding that a COL for Lee Units 1 & 2 should be issued. Therefore the contention is material to the findings the NRC must make in order to license this facility.

BREDL recognizes that some issues raised by the Task Force Report may be appropriate for generic rather than case-specific resolution. The determination of

whether it is appropriate to address the issues raised in this contention generically or on a case-specific basis is a discretionary matter for the NRC to decide. *Baltimore Gas & Electric Co. v. Natural Resources Defense Council*, 462 U.S. at 100. Nevertheless, any generic resolution of the issues must be reached *before* the licensing decision in this case is made, and must be applied to this licensing decision. *Robertson*, 490 U.S. at 350.

**5. Concise Statement of the Facts or Expert Opinion Supporting the Contention, Along With Appropriate Citations to Supporting Scientific or Factual Materials.**

The BREDL relies on the facts and opinions of the Task Force members as set forth in their Task Force Report and as summarized above in Section B. The high level of technical qualifications of the Task Force members has been recognized by the Commission. *See* Transcript of May 12, 2011, briefing at 5, in which Commissioner Magwood refers to the Task force as the NRC’s “A-team.”

Additional technical support is provided by the attached Declarations of Dr. Arjun Makhijani and Dr. Ross McCluney which confirm the environmental significance of the Task Force’s findings and recommendations with respect to the environmental analyses for all pending nuclear reactor licensing cases and design certification applications including the instant case.

**6. Sufficient Information to Show the Existence of a Genuine Dispute With the Applicant and the NRC.**

Based on the complete failure of the NRC to address the environmental implications of the Task Force Report for the proposed licensing of Lee Units 1 & 2, it appears that the parties have a dispute as to whether the ER for the facility must be

revised to address those implications. As demonstrated above in Section B, the Task Force Report and the Declarations of Dr. Makhijani and Dr. McCluney Declaration provide sufficient information to show the genuineness and materiality of the dispute.

### **III. CONCLUSION**

For the foregoing reasons, the contention is admissible and should be admitted for a hearing.

Respectfully submitted this 11<sup>th</sup> day of August 2011.

/signed electronically by/  
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Legal Representative  
Post Office Box 88  
Glendale Springs, NC 28629  
336-982-2691  
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### **CERTIFICATE REQUIRED BY 10 C.F.R. § 2.323(b)**

I certify that on August 10, 2011, I contacted counsel for the applicant and the NRC Staff in an attempt to obtain their consent to this motion. The applicant does not consent to the motion; NRC Staff did not take a position.

/signed electronically by/  
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336-982-2691  
bredl@skybest.com

August 11, 2011

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

BEFORE ATOMIC SAFETY AND LICENSING BOARD

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In the Matter of	)	Dockets No. 52-018, 52-019
Duke Energy Carolinas	)	
Combined License Application	)	ASLBP No. 08-865-03-COL-BD01
For William States Lee III Units 1 and 2	)	
	)	
	)	

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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that copies of the

**MOTION TO REOPEN AND CONTENTION REGARDING NEPA  
REQUIREMENT TO ADDRESS SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL  
IMPLICATIONS OF THE FUKUSHIMA TASK FORCE REPORT**

were served on the following persons via Electronic Information Exchange  
this 11<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2011.

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Signed in Glendale Springs,  
August 11, 2011



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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

BEFORE THE SECRETARY

In the Matter of  
Duke Energy Carolinas  
Combined License Application for  
For William States Lee III Units 1 and 2  
Dockets No. 52-018, 52-019

**DECLARATION OF STANDING**

Under penalty of perjury, Joseph W. Zdenek declares as follows:

1. My name is Joseph W. Zdenek. I am a member of Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League.
2. I live at 752 Harrell St., Rock Hill, SC 29730. My home lies within 50 miles of the site in Cherokee County, South Carolina for which Duke Energy Carolinas has applied to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission for a Combined License for the construction and operation of two nuclear power plants.
3. Based on the impacts of the recent nuclear power plant accident in Japan, I believe that these facilities are inherently dangerous. Therefore, construction of these new nuclear reactors so close to my home could pose a grave risk to my health and safety. In particular, I am concerned about releases of radioactive substances to the air and water, an accident involving the release of radioactive materials, and my ability to protect myself and my family if a radioactive accident were to occur.
4. Therefore, I have authorized Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League to represent my interests in this proceeding by filing new arguments opposing the issuance of a Combined License to Duke Energy Carolina.

Joseph W. Zdenek  
Signature

Dated: 8/9/11

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

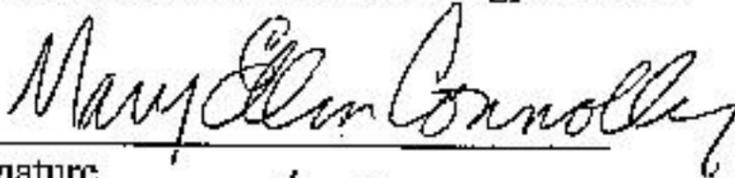
BEFORE THE SECRETARY

In the Matter of  
Duke Energy Carolinas  
Combined License Application for  
For William States Lee III Units 1 and 2  
Dockets No. 52-018, 52-019

**DECLARATION OF STANDING**

Under penalty of perjury, Mary Ellen Connolly declares as follows:

1. My name is Mary Ellen Connolly. I am a member of Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League.
2. I live at 664 Connolly Road, York, South Carolina 29745. My home lies within 50 miles of the site in Cherokee County, South Carolina for which Duke Energy Carolinas has applied to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission for a Combined License for the construction and operation of two nuclear power plants. Also, I own business property and operate Sharon Apparel on Highway 211 in Sharon, SC 29742, also within 50 miles of the site.
3. Based on the impacts of the recent nuclear power plant accident in Japan, I believe that these facilities are inherently dangerous. Therefore, construction of these new nuclear reactors so close to my home could pose a grave risk to my health and safety. In particular, I am concerned about releases of radioactive substances to the air and water, an accident involving the release of radioactive materials, and my ability to protect myself and my family if a radioactive accident were to occur.
4. Therefore, I have authorized Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League to represent my interests in this proceeding by filing new arguments opposing the issuance of a Combined License to Duke Energy Carolina.

  
Signature

Dated: 8/11/11

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

BEFORE THE SECRETARY

In the Matter of  
Duke Energy Carolinas  
Combined License Application for  
For William States Lee III Units 1 and 2  
Dockets No. 52-018, 52-019

**DECLARATION OF STANDING**

Under penalty of perjury, Charles L. Moss declares as follows:

1. My name is Charles L. Moss. I am a member of Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League.

2. I live at 4595 Hickory Grove Rd. Sharon SC 29742

My home lies within 50 miles of the site in Cherokee County, South Carolina for which Duke Energy Carolinas has applied to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission for a Combined License for the construction and operation of two nuclear power plants.

3. Based on the impacts of the recent nuclear power plant accident in Japan, I believe that these facilities are inherently dangerous. Therefore, construction of these new nuclear reactors so close to my home could pose a grave risk to my health and safety. In particular, I am concerned about releases of radioactive substances to the air and water, an accident involving the release of radioactive materials, and my ability to protect myself and my family if a radioactive accident were to occur.

4. Therefore, I have authorized Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League to represent my interests in this proceeding by filing new arguments opposing the issuance of a Combined License to Duke Energy Carolina.

Charles L. Moss

Signature

Dated:

08-09-2011

# SunPine Consulting

3517 Elderview Dr. Chattanooga, TN 37419 423-821-0981 rm@sunpine.us

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## **Declaration of Dr. Ross McCluney Regarding Environmental and Safety Issues at Nuclear Power Plants Based on Events at Fukushima and the Findings of the NRC Interim Task Force**

I, Ross McCluney, make the following declarations:

### **Brief Statement of Professional Qualifications**

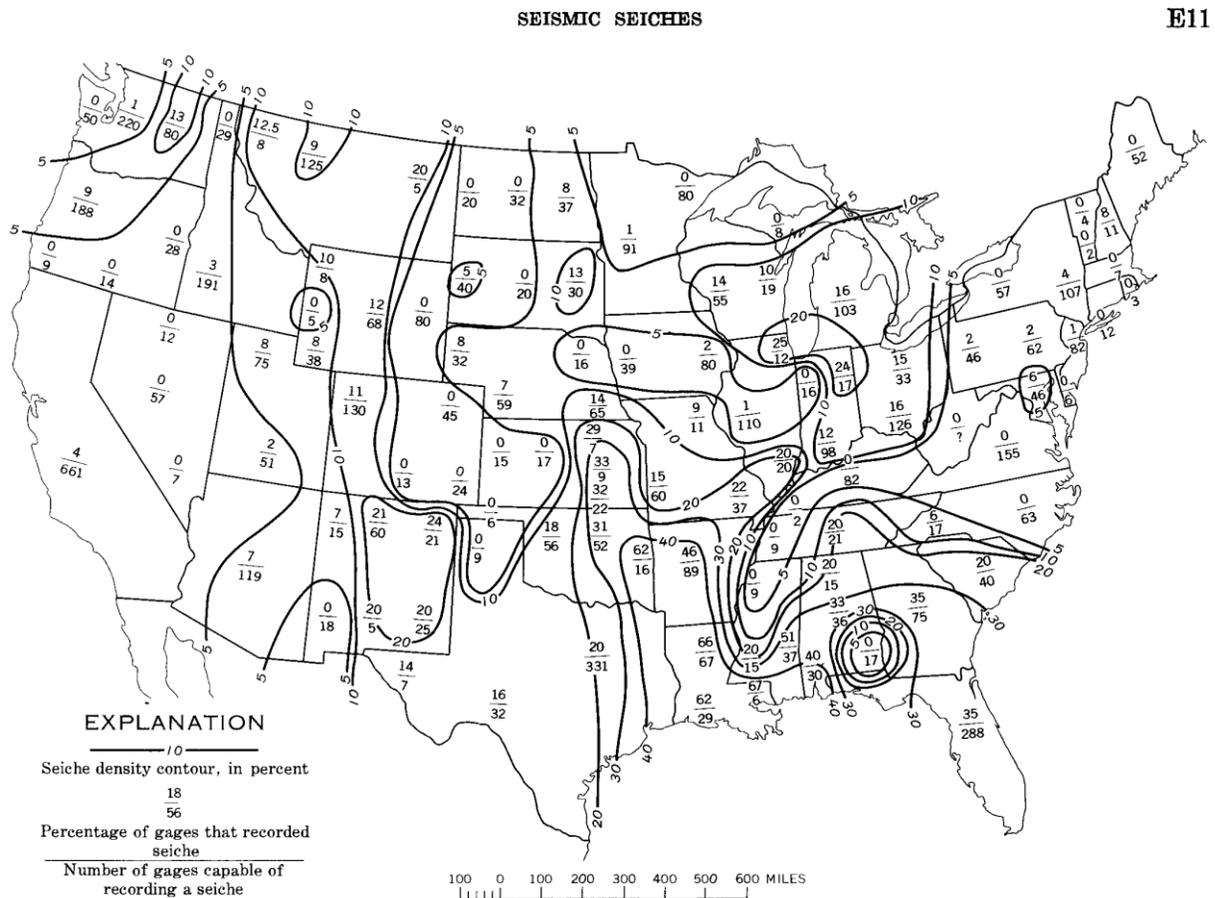
1. My scientific career has spanned three and a half decades and several disciplines. For my B. A. degree earned at Rhodes College in Memphis I studied physics, mathematics, economics, philosophy, English literature, and religion. As part of my undergraduate coursework, I also learned the rudiments of nuclear physics, operated a nuclear particle detector, and briefly studied the health effects of ionizing radiation. My M.S. thesis research at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville dealt with the diffraction of laser light by high frequency sound waves in water. I studied the new field of holography at the University of Rochester's Institute of Optics, then pioneered the use of holographic interferometry for diagnostic tests of optical systems. This work continued while I pursued a Ph.D. degree on both NASA and National Science Foundation fellowships at the University of Miami, developing a complex holographic interferometer for detecting minute changes in gas density inside a test cell made of optically imperfect clear acrylic plastic. I interrupted my physics studies for a year to do a graduate assistantship at the University's Center for Urban and Environmental Studies, working under noted ecologist Arthur Marshall. Upon return to my Ph.D. dissertation research, I studied optical oceanography and completed my Ph.D. dissertation on light scattering by marine phytoplankton.
2. Following receipt of my doctorate in physics, I worked for three years as an optical oceanographer in the Hydrology and Oceanography Branch at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, MD, occasionally working with Jacques Cousteau on joint NASA/Cousteau projects.
3. From 1976 to 2007 I was a Principal Research Scientist at the Florida Solar Energy Center, a research institute of the University of Central Florida.
4. I have authored many publications including:
  - *Introduction to Radiometry and Photometry*, textbook published by Artech House, 1992
  - *Humanity's Environmental Future: Making Sense in a Troubled World*, SunPine Press, Cape Canaveral, Florida, © 2004
  - *Getting to the Source: Readings on Environmental Values*, SunPine Press, Cape Canaveral, Florida, © 2004
5. Since 2007 I have done technical work at SunPine Consulting and environmental work through the Solar Valley Coalition, the Cherokee Group of the Tennessee Chapter of the Sierra Club, the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy and as a co-founder of the BEST chapter of Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League.

## Seismicity, Hydrology and Inland Seiches

6. Seismic seiches are standing waves on rivers, reservoirs and lakes caused by disturbances from tectonic activity and earthquakes. Seismic seiches may occur at great distances from the epicenter of the initiating seismic event; they are continental and even global in their effect on bodies of water.

7. For example, the Alaska earthquake of March 1964 caused seismic seiches in water bodies across North America. The impact on the hydrologic regimen in the coterminous United States was detailed in a 1968 US Geological Survey report.<sup>1</sup> Surface water gauges at 850 stations in North America and 4 in Australia registered seiches from the 1964 quake.

8. The locus of the greatest density of seiches caused by the Alaska Earthquake was the southeastern United States, with the greatest number in the states bordering the Gulf of Mexico. According to the USGS report, seiches as high as 1.8 meters were registered on the Gulf Coast. The prevalence of seismic seiches in the Southeast is illustrated on the map of the United States *infra* on which was recorded the percentage of surface water gauges that recorded seiches subsequent to the 1964 Alaska earthquake.



6.—Map of conterminous United States showing seiche density, in percent, by State and by river basin.

<sup>1</sup> *Seismic Seiches From the March 1964 Alaska Earthquake*, McGarr A and Vorhis RC, US Geological Survey Professional Paper No. 544-E, 1968

9. The geographic pattern of seiches of the Alaska earthquake did not depend on distance from the epicenter. Rather, geologic features were deemed to be the principal factor in determining where and how strong the oscillations of surface waters would be. The most influential geologic features are: thickness of surface sediments, thrust faults and structural basins. The thick surface sediments of the Mississippi Delta promoted seiches in that region. The USGS report identified Georgia's Brevard Fault region, the Arkansas-Oklahoma Ouachita Mountains and the Tennessee-Alabama Valley and Ridge province as having thrust faults conducive to seismic seiches.

10. The 1964 Alaska earthquake was measured at 8.4 on the Richter scale. The 2002 Denali earthquake was one of the largest inland quakes recorded in North America. In the Southeast, an earthquake in 1903 centered in the Savannah River area was recorded at an intensity of VI (Mercalli). In 1924 an earthquake affecting an area of 50,000 square miles shook most of South Carolina. In 1945 a shock centered west of Columbia, SC was felt as far away as Georgia and Tennessee. A magnitude 3.4 (Richter scale) earthquake was centered near Orangeburg, SC in 1971. The Charleston, South Carolina earthquake of 1886 had a magnitude of 7.3 (Johnson, 1996) and was felt over 2.5 million square miles, from Cuba to New York, and Bermuda to the Mississippi River.<sup>2</sup>

11. Earthquakes and lower-power tremors can certainly have serious impacts near to their occurrences, but earth movements can also be produced at substantial distances from the epicenters, as evidenced by the recorded history of seiches outlined above. Subsurface geological conditions at and near nuclear sites in the U.S. can make such sites vulnerable to subsidence, lateral movement, and other potentially disruptive ground disturbances.

12. Additional work is needed to identify potential subsurface threats to plant safety in the event of seismic activity at and around nuclear sites. Karst formations, in particular, should not escape scrutiny, due to their general instability. Engineers responsible for stormwater management are particularly aware of the susceptibility of such formations. Consider the following caution in the Abstract of the 1999 report "Geotechnical Engineering Considerations For Stormwater Management In Karst Terrain" by Mark R. Ralston, and Issa S. Oweis.

Soluble bedrock (karst) settings can present a unique set of stormwater management challenges to planners and developers. Sinkholes and land subsidence are two common occurrences in such settings, and stormwater management activities often affect the development of these natural phenomena. An understanding of the natural and anthropogenic conditions that can affect the expression of karst features is important to the design and implementation of stormwater management facilities such as stormwater collection systems, stormwater routing, detention/retention basins, sinkhole/subsidence remediation efforts, and other engineering activities.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> South Carolina Emergency Management Division has responsibility for the development, coordination, and maintenance of the Earthquake Plan and selected other plans, [http://www.scemd.org/news/publications/EQ%20Guide%202008/1886\\_EQ\\_New\\_08.html](http://www.scemd.org/news/publications/EQ%20Guide%202008/1886_EQ_New_08.html)

<sup>3</sup> Mark R. Ralston, and Issa S. Oweis, "Geotechnical Engineering Considerations For Stormwater Management In Karst Terrain." 1999 Southeastern Pennsylvania Stormwater Management Symposium -- Implementing Best Management Practices, Villanova University, Villanova, Pennsylvania. October 20-21, 1999,

For example, the Bellefonte nuclear generator site on the Tennessee River in northeastern Alabama is known for its nearby Karst formations.<sup>4</sup>

### **Earthquakes Cannot Be Predicted**

13. An earthquake is an unpredictable event. This fact was made clear by the Fukushima disaster which occurred in an area with a known seismic history and to a society well adapted to living on the fault line, but the earthquake and resulting tsunami exceeded expected consequences. It does not take oceanic tsunamis to produce potentially serious localized flooding following geologic shifts, in areas adjacent to or surrounded by rivers, reservoirs, and lakes, including those formed by dams. Even modern science and engineering are no match for tectonic movement:

An earthquake results from sudden slip on a geological fault. Such fracture and failure problems are notoriously intractable. The heterogeneous state of the Earth and the inaccessibility of the fault zone to direct measurement impose further difficulties. Except during a brief period in the 1970s, the leading seismological authorities of each era have generally concluded that earthquake prediction is not feasible. Richter, developer of the eponymous magnitude scale, commented as follows in 1977: "Journalists and the general public rush to any suggestion of earthquake prediction like hogs toward a full trough... [Prediction] provides a happy hunting ground for amateurs, cranks, and outright publicity-seeking fakers"<sup>5</sup>

14. Charles Richter, California Institute of Technology professor of seismology, spent most of his professional life in this field. He assisted officials in Japan and California with earthquake engineering and safety preparations. His description of earthquake "prediction" needs to be taken seriously by Nuclear Regulatory Commission decision makers.

### **NRC Task Force Orders Should Preclude Further Action on Reactor Licensing**

15. The Near-term Task Force Review<sup>6</sup> provides guidance and recommends specific orders to be implemented by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The NRC should execute these orders before allowing any nuclear power plant license to proceed. The three orders recommended by the Task Force which are directed towards seismic and hydrology issues are:

- Order licensees to reevaluate the seismic and flooding hazards at their sites against current NRC requirements and guidance, and, if necessary, update the design basis and SSCs important to safety to protect against the updated hazards. (Section 4.1.1—detailed recommendation 2.1)
- Order licensees to perform seismic and flood protection walkdowns to identify and address plant-specific vulnerabilities and verify the adequacy of monitoring and maintenance for protection features such as watertight barriers and seals in the interim period until longer term

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<sup>4</sup> The New World Encyclopedia at [http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Karst\\_topography](http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Karst_topography)

<sup>5</sup> Geller RJ et al, "Earthquakes Cannot Be Predicted," Volume 275, Number 5306, pp. 1616, 1996, The American Association for the Advancement of Science, <http://scec.ess.ucla.edu/~ykagan/perspective.html>

<sup>6</sup> Recommendations for Enhancing Reactor Safety in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: The Near-term Task Force Review of Insights from the Fukushima Da-ichi Accident, July 12, 2011

actions are completed to update the design basis for external events. (Section 4.1.1—detailed recommendation 2.3)

- Order licensees to provide reasonable protection for equipment currently provided pursuant to 10 CFR 50.54(hh)(2) from the effects of design-basis external events and to add equipment as needed to address multiunit events while other requirements are being revised and implemented. (Section 4.2.1—detailed recommendation 4.2)

In my opinion, these orders should be implemented by the Commission immediately.

*Ross McCluney*

11 August 2011

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Ross McCluney

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Date

## Curriculum Vitae of Ross McCluney

Dr. Ross McCluney is a nationally recognized scientist, author, and speaker. His research specialties include optical system design and evaluation, building window solar radiation analysis, solar cooker and solar water distillation system design. He has collaborated with artist Susan Miller on the design and fabrication of artistic sundials for public spaces ([www.sunpath-designs.com](http://www.sunpath-designs.com)). Since the first Earth Day in 1970—when he was a leader in the University of Miami’s observance of that event—he has been writing and speaking on environmental issues for a variety of audiences.

As an optical physicist McCluney’s interests are in the optical and illumination performances of a variety of novel solar lighting systems, including the relatively new tubular skylight products being marketed by several companies.

Dr. McCluney served as technical consultant on the design and construction of the world's largest sundial at Walt Disney World and smaller ones at the University of Texas Pan American Campus in Edinburg and at the Council Bluffs Public Library in Council Bluffs, Iowa. Dr. McCluney provides technical consulting services to private and governmental organizations in a variety of areas.

He has written more than 60 technical papers—including several papers for general audiences on environmental ethics—and four books. He has taught both undergraduate and graduate courses at the college and university levels. He supervised the M.S. thesis research of several students at Florida Institute of Technology in Melbourne.

His primary interest is in the energy and illumination performance of fenestrations systems, but he also pursues work in the optical aspects of solar energy collection as well as issues of energy and environmental policy, including environmental ethics and scientific responsibility. He has served on the Boards of Directors of Indian River Audubon Society and Florida Audubon Society.

Dr. McCluney’s research activities in fenestration have received national and international recognition. He is past chairman of ASHRAE Technical Committee on fenestration; a member of the daylighting committee of the Illumination Engineering Society; a member and technical consultant of the U.S. National Committee on Interior Lighting of the International Lighting Commission (CIE), and a past member of the CIE's technical committee on international daylight and solar radiation measurements. He has authored over 70 papers and four books, on both technical and environmental topics. His textbook *Introduction to Radiometry and Photometry* was published by Artech House in 1994.

Dr. McCluney obtained a Bachelor’s Degree in physics from Rhodes College in Memphis and his Master’s Degree in physics from the University of Tennessee. His research at the University of Tennessee involved the diffraction of light by sound waves. From 1966 to 1967, he worked as a development engineer for Eastman Kodak Company in Rochester, New York, and developed a holographic interferometer for testing optical systems. He used this technique at the University

of Miami in Coral Gables, Florida to develop a ten-pass holographic interferometer for measuring very small changes in optical systems.

Dr. McCluney received his Ph.D. in physics from the University of Miami in 1973. His dissertation research was based on the scattering of light by marine organisms. He worked as a research scientist in optical oceanography in the Hydrology and Oceanography Branch of NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland, from 1973 to 1976. Dr. McCluney's work there focused on the remote measurement of ocean color.

He has served as a consultant to Kenergy Corporation, 3M Company, Syracuse Research Institute, the Dade County Florida Department of Parks and Recreation, Public Works Canada, Synertech Corporation, T. J. Bottom Industries, New York State Psychiatric Institute, Verosol-USA, U. S. Office of Energy-Related Inventions, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Holder Construction Company (builder of the Team Disney Building and North and South America's largest sundial, Lake Buena Vista, FL), BRW Architects, Queens University in Kingston, Ontario, Canada, Kell, Munoz, Wigodsky Architects, San Antonio, Morrison Associates Sundials, the U.S. Department of Justice, and Cardinal Glass Industries.

He currently serves as V.P. of Research and Development and a Director of the Sunflower Corporation of Boulder, CO as well as a member of the Board of Directors of the National Fenestration Rating Council.



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**DECLARATION OF DR. ARJUN MAKHIJANI  
REGARDING SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE OF  
NRC TASK FORCE REPORT REGARDING LESSONS LEARNED FROM  
FUKUSHIMA DAIICHI NUCLEAR POWER STATION ACCIDENT<sup>1</sup>**

I, Arjun Makhijani, declare as follows:

**Introduction and Statement of Qualifications**

1. I am President of the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research (“IEER”) in Takoma Park, Maryland. Under my direction, IEER produces technical studies on a wide range of energy and environmental issues to provide advocacy groups and policy makers with sound scientific information and analyses as applied to environmental and health protection and for the purpose of promoting the understanding and democratization of science. A copy of my curriculum vita is attached.
2. I am qualified by training and experience as an expert in the fields of plasma physics, electrical engineering, nuclear engineering, the health effects of radiation, radioactive waste management and disposal (including spent fuel), estimation of source terms from nuclear facilities, risk assessment, energy-related technology and policy issues, and the relative costs and benefits of nuclear energy and other energy sources. I am the principal author of a report on the 1959 accident at the Sodium Reactor Experiment facility near Simi Valley in California, prepared as an expert report for litigation involving radioactivity emissions from that site. I am also the principal author of a book, *The Nuclear Power Deception: U.S. Nuclear Mythology from Electricity “Too Cheap to Meter” to “Inherently Safe’ Reactors”* (Apex Press, New York, 1999, co-author, Scott Saleska), which examines, among other things, the safety of various designs of nuclear reactors.
3. I have written or co-written a number of other books, reports, and publications analyzing the safety, economics, and efficiency of various energy sources, including nuclear power. I am also the author of *Securing the Energy Future of the United States: Oil, Nuclear and Electricity*

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<sup>1</sup> Task Force Review (*Recommendations for Enhancing Reactor Safety in the 21st Century: The Near-Term Task Force Review of Insights from the Fukushima Dai-ichi Accident*, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, July 12, 2011, at <http://pbadupws.nrc.gov/docs/ML11118/ML111861807.pdf>)

*Vulnerabilities and a Post-September 11, 2001 Roadmap for Action* (Institute for Energy and Environmental Research, Takoma Park, Maryland, December 2001). In 2004, I wrote “Atomic Myths, Radioactive Realities: Why nuclear power is a poor way to meet energy needs,” *Journal of Land, Resources, & Environmental Law*, v. 24, no. 1 at 61-72 (2004). The article was adapted from an oral presentation given on April 18, 2003, at the Eighth Annual Wallace Stegner Center Symposium entitled, “Nuclear West: Legacy and Future,” held at the University of Utah S.J. Quinney College of Law. In 2008, I prepared a report for the Sustainable Energy & Economic Development (SEED) Coalition entitled *Assessing Nuclear Plant Capital Costs for the Two Proposed NRG Reactors at the South Texas Project Site*.

4. I am generally familiar with the basic design and operation of U.S. nuclear reactors and with the safety and environmental risks they pose. I am also generally familiar with materials from the press, the Japanese government, the Tokyo Electric Power Company, the French government safety authorities, and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (“NRC”) regarding the Fukushima Daiichi (hereafter Fukushima) accident and its potential implications for the safety and environmental protection of U.S. reactors. I have also read *Recommendations for Enhancing Reactor Safety in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: The Near-Term Task Force Review of Insights from the Fukushima Dai-ichi Accident*, July 12, 2011 (hereafter the “Task Force Review”), published by the NRC.

5. On April 19, 2011, I prepared a declaration stating my opinion that although the causes, evolution, and consequences of the Fukushima accident were not yet fully clear a month after the accident began, it was already presenting new and significant information regarding the risks to public health and safety and the environment posed by the operation of nuclear reactors. My declaration was submitted to the NRC by numerous individuals and environmental organizations in support of a legal petition to suspend licensing decisions while the NRC investigated the regulatory implications of the Fukushima accident. *Emergency Petition to Suspend All Pending Reactor Licensing Decisions and Related Rulemaking Decisions Pending Investigation of Lessons learned From Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station Accident* (April 14-18, 2011). In my declaration I also stated my belief that the integration of new information from the Fukushima accident into the NRC’s licensing process could affect the outcome of safety and environmental analyses for reactor licensing and relicensing decisions by resulting in the denial of licenses or license extensions or the imposition of new conditions and/or new regulatory requirements. I also expressed the opinion that the new information could also affect the NRC’s evaluation of the fitness of new reactor designs for certification. *Id.*, par. 5.

## **Purpose**

6. The purpose of my declaration is to explain why the Task Force Review provides further support for my opinions that the Fukushima accident presents new and significant information regarding the risks to public health and safety and the environment posed by the operation of nuclear reactors and that the integration of this new information into the NRC’s licensing process could affect the outcome of safety and environmental analyses for reactor licensing and relicensing decisions and the NRC’s evaluation of the fitness of new reactor designs for certification.

## Agreement With Task Force Review’s Conclusions Regarding Need to Expand Design Basis

7. In my opinion, the Task Force reasonably concludes that substantial revisions to the very framework of NRC regulations are needed to adequately protect public health and the environment. I also agree that a major overarching step that needs to be taken is to integrate into the design basis for NRC safety requirements an expanded list of severe accidents and events, based on current scientific understanding and evaluations. This would ensure that potential mitigation measures are evaluated on the basis of whether they are needed for safety and not whether they are merely desirable. Should the NRC fail to incorporate an expanded list of severe accident requirements in the design basis of reactors, then a conclusion that the design provides for adequate protection to the public against severe accident risks could not be justified. The necessity for an expanded list of design basis requirements should be viewed in light of the Fukushima experience and the nuclear accident experience which preceded Fukushima, including Three Mile Island and Chernobyl accidents. Specifically, adequate protection of the public is incompatible with the NRC’s continued reliance on voluntary evaluation of severe external and internal events, voluntary adoption of mitigation measures, or the use of cost-benefit analysis to evaluate their desirability.

8. I believe my opinion is consistent with the Task Force’s statement that:

Adequate protection has been, and should continue to be, an evolving safety standard supported by new scientific information, technologies, methods, and operating experience. This was the case when new information about the security environment was revealed through the events of September 11, 2001. Licensing or operating a nuclear power plant with no emergency core cooling system or without robust security protections, while done in the past, would not occur under the current regulations. As new information and new analytical techniques are developed, safety standards need to be *reviewed, evaluated, and changed, as necessary, to insure that they continue to address the NRC’s requirements to provide reasonable assurance of adequate protection of public health and safety. The Task Force believes, based on its review of the information currently available from Japan and the current regulations, that the time has come for such change.* [p. 18, italics added]

9. I am concerned that over the past three decades or more, the NRC has not conducted the type of review of the adequacy of its safety regulations that is necessary to update its requirements so as to ensure that NRC safety requirements will provide the minimum level of protection required by the Atomic Energy Act. For instance, the Task Force Review points out that, over 30 years ago, the Rogovin Commission recommended that the scope of the design basis should be expanded to include a greater range of severe accidents. The Rogovin Commission explicitly stated that “[m]odification is definitely needed in the current philosophy that there are some accidents (“Class Nine accidents”)<sup>[2]</sup> so unlikely that reactor designs need not

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<sup>2</sup> Class Nine accidents are now called “severe accidents.” (Task Force Review p. 16)

provide for mitigating their consequences.”<sup>3</sup>. This recommendation was effectively disregarded by the NRC. Instead of imposing and enforcing mandatory requirements for prevention and mitigation of severe accidents, the NRC accepted voluntary measures and the use of cost-benefit assessments by licensees to exclude requirements for a range of preventive or mitigative measures. As a result the Task Force Review concluded that despite including some requirements for beyond-design-basis accidents, “the NRC *has not made fundamental changes to the regulatory approach for beyond-design-basis events and severe accidents* for operating reactors.” (p. 17, italics added). Even the installation of hardened vents on Mark I and Mark II BWRs was left to the voluntary discretion of the licensees. Given the NRC’s failure to make the needed changes in its basic regulatory requirements for safety since the Rogovin Commission report was issued over thirty years ago, and in light of the disastrous consequences of the Fukushima accident, which continues nearly five months after it started, I consider the current inadequacies in the NRC’s program for regulation of basic reactor safety to be extraordinarily grave problems.

### **Potential Effects of Task Force Review on Environmental Analyses for New Reactors, Existing Reactor License Renewal, and Standardized Design Certification**

10. If the Task Force’s recommendation to incorporate severe accidents into the design basis for NRC safety requirements is considered in environmental analyses for reactor licensing decisions or standardized design certifications, I think it would have very significant effects on the outcome of those analyses, in three key respects. First, the environmental analysis would have to consider the implication of the Task Force Review that compliance with current NRC safety requirements does not adequately protect public health and safety from severe accidents and their environmental effects. Second, for reactors that are unable to comply with new mandatory requirements, it could result in the denial of licenses. Third, the cost of adopting mandatory measures necessary to significantly improve the safety of currently operating reactors and proposed new reactors is likely to be significant.

### **Change to Estimate of Environmental Risk**

11. An analysis of the environmental implications of the Task Force Review would have to consider the ramifications of the Task Force’s implicit conclusion that compliance with current NRC safety standards does not adequately protect public health and safety from severe accidents and their environmental effects. For instance, the Task Force Review indicates that seismic and flooding risks as well as risks of seismically-induced fires and floods may be greater than previously understood by the NRC in some cases. Therefore in its environmental analyses, the NRC would have to revise its analysis to reflect the new understanding that the risks and radiological impacts of accidents are greater than previously thought.

### **Potential Denial of License Applications Based on Environmental Risk Analyses**

12. The Task Force Review implicitly raises the potential that some reactors will be unable to

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<sup>3</sup> Rogovin Commission report (*Three Mile Island: A Report to the Commissioners and to the Public*, by Mitchell Rogovin and George T. Frampton, et al. NUREG/CR-1250 1980. (Rogovin, Stern & Huges, Washington, DC, January 1980), v. 1, p. 151

comply with new mandatory requirements, thus resulting in the denial of licenses. For instance, this would be the case if a reactor cannot be adequately backfitted to comply with present-day assessment of ground shaking induced by earthquakes. Similarly, multi-unit siting may not be allowed in certain cases due to the impracticality of meeting upgraded emergency management requirements.

### **Significant Changes to Cost-Benefit Analyses**

13. The cost of adopting mandatory measures necessary to significantly improve the safety of currently operating reactors and proposed new reactors is likely to be significant. Adoption of a coherent regulatory framework as recommended by the Task Force, including periodic reassessments of whether the design basis is up to date with scientific assessments of flooding and seismic threats, is likely to result in significantly increased costs for nuclear reactors.

14. The Task Force Review contains numerous recommendations for consideration of new mandatory requirements for increasing the capability of the reactors, equipment, and personnel to handle and to respond to a range of severe accidents. Adoption of such measures could have high costs. This, in turn, will affect the overall cost-benefit analysis for reactors, especially the comparisons of nuclear power with alternative sources of electricity. Examples of potentially significant costs if severe accident mitigation measures are adopted follow in paragraphs 15 through 24 below:

15. If the Task Force recommendations are adopted, all existing reactors will be required to make changes to extend their capacity to handle station blackouts. This design upgrade is likely to have significant costs.

16. Similar considerations apply to new reactor combined construction and operating license applications. For instance, the Task Force recommends adding station blackout requirements to the Advanced Boiling Water Reactor, which would also likely result in increased costs. (p. 72).

17. Even where the Task Force deems some narrow issues to be already resolved by COL (combined license) applications and/or design certification applications, the interplay of other Task Force recommendations may raise environmental issues and cost concerns. For instance, while the Task Force found that the AP1000 and ESBWR designs already have a 72-hour provision for passive emergency core cooling, thereby satisfying the design requirement recommendations for station blackouts (pp. 71-72), other statements in the Task Force Review indicate the existence of environmental concerns that should be addressed in an EIS. For instance, the Task Force recommendations relating to the provision of backup power during the time beyond 72 hours relate mainly to repositioning equipment offsite (Recommendation 4.1, p. 38) and therefore were regarded as not relevant to AP1000 and ESBWR design certifications but only to the COL process (p. 72). However, in the context of emergency preparedness, the Task Force Review notes that “[i]n the case of large natural disasters such as earthquakes, hurricanes, and floods, the phenomena challenging the plant will also have affected the local community. In these cases, *prearranged resources may not be available because of their inability to reach the plant site....*” (p. 60, italics added). Therefore the designs of the AP1000 and the ESBWR need to be reviewed in the context of their ability to mitigate the environmental impacts of station

blackout lasting more than 72 hours. The potential for destruction of infrastructure that would prevent prestaged offsite equipment from reaching the site would also needs to be taken into account in environmental analyses for COLs and license extension applications.

18. Similarly, while the Task Force concludes that COL and Early Site Permit (ESP) applications already satisfy Recommendation 2.1 with respect to analysis of seismic and flooding risks (p. 71), it does not appear that all of the seismic and flooding-related implications of the Review have been addressed. Specifically, the flooding and fires that may be induced by earthquakes was closed by the NRC without imposing new requirements; the Task Force Review recommends reopening this issue (p. 32). These are issues that combine site characteristics and reactor design. For instance, the passive cooling features of AP1000s and ESBWRs involve pools of water located above the reactors. In addition, the ESBWR design has a buffer spent fuel pool in roughly the same position relative to the reactor as the Mark I design reactors (i.e., above the reactor vessel). Hence it is important to revisit this issue for these two reactor designs since they may be built at seismically active sites, including in the central and eastern United States (see paragraph 22 below), where there are active COL applications pending.

19. In the context of existing reactors, the Task Force Review recommends incorporating the latest understanding of seismic impacts and flooding (Recommendation 2, p. 30), and reopening the issue seismically induced flooding and fires (Recommendation 3, p. 32). This reassessment may also involve increased costs due to required backfits.

20. Taken as a whole, the Task Force Review's recommendations implicitly call for a review of all new reactor design certifications regarding station blackout (SBO) arrangements, including mitigation measures for SBO events that extend beyond 72 hours and spent fuel pool instrumentation and make up water supply capability. The effects of seismically induced flooding and fires on spent fuel pool arrangements should also be reviewed. All of these reviews could result in the imposition of costly prevention or mitigation measures, affecting comparisons with the alternatives.

21.. In view of the events leading to the hydrogen explosions in Units 1, 3, and 4 at Fukushima, the reliability of the existing hardened vent system in Mark I and Mark II reactors has been thrown into question. The Task Force Review recommends installation of *reliable* hardened vents in all Mark I and Mark II BWRs (Recommendation 5, p. 41). Because such vents have not yet been designed and tested, their costs are unknown. However, they are likely to be substantial. These costs must be determined and evaluated for NEPA purposes for all 23 Mark I reactors and all eight Mark II reactors.

22. The recommended mandatory review of the flooding and seismic design basis of existing reactors to evaluate whether they meet the design basis safety requirements could result in greatly increased costs in some or many cases. The establishment of the Shoreline Fault just offshore the Diablo Canyon Power Plant and the Oceanside thrust in the area of the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station provides examples of recent developments that could lead to large expenditures for restoring the design basis safety margins for these reactors. As a reflection of the uncertainty, Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E), which owns Diablo Canyon has itself requested and obtained a delay of 52 months in its license extension application so that the necessary

seismic studies can be completed. Another example relates to seismic hazard assessments in the central and eastern United States. In that case, the NRC has concluded that “[u]pdates to seismic data and models indicate that estimates of the seismic hazard, at some operating nuclear power plant sites in the Central and Eastern United States, have increased.”<sup>4</sup> The NRC does not have enough data at present to determine what, if any, backfits may be called for, but intends to use a cost-benefit approach in deciding whether they should be implemented. It specifically states that “[i]n order to progress with the Regulatory Analysis Stage, a comprehensive list of candidate plant backfits must be identified for subsequent value-impact analysis.”<sup>5</sup> “Value-impact analysis” is the NRC’s terminology for a cost-benefit analysis.<sup>6</sup> However, if backfitting for more severe earthquakes than were incorporated into the original design were *required* for safety rather than left to a cost-benefit analysis, the implications for comparison with the alternatives could be considerable for existing reactors in the Central and Eastern United States.

23. The Task Force noted that the same concern applies to flooding hazards, where “the assumptions and factors that were considered in flood protection at operating plants vary. In some cases, the design basis does not consider the probable maximum flood (PMF).” (p. 29) Again, protection of reactors against updated flood hazards could involve significant costs, depending on the outcome of the updated evaluations.

24. Finally, the Task Force Review points out the importance of considering mitigation measures associated with multi-unit events. Such events had not been considered before and therefore were assigned zero probability for all intents and purposes. The Task Force review recommends a revision of regulations to cover multi-unit events, for instance, to ensure adequate emergency core and spent fuel cooling for more than one unit at a time:

As part of the revision to 10 CFR 50.63, the NRC should require that the *equipment* and personnel necessary to implement the minimum and extended coping strategies shall include *sufficient capacity to provide core and spent fuel pool cooling, and reactor cooling system and primary containment integrity for all units at a multiunit facility*. The staff should also make the appropriate revisions to the definitions of “station blackout” and “alternate ac source” in 10 CFR 50.2. [p. 39, italics added]

Because most new applicants for COLs, such as Vogtle 3 and 4, propose to locate the new units at sites that already have reactors, the entire basis of emergency response adequacy, station-blackout related requirements, and emergency core and spent fuel pool cooling needs to be

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<sup>4</sup> *Implications of Updated Probabilistic Seismic Hazard Estimates in Central and Eastern United States on Existing Plants Safety/Risk Assessments*, Generic Issue 199 (GI-199), Nuclear Regulatory Commission, August 2010, at <http://pbadupws.nrc.gov/docs/ML1002/ML100270639.pdf>, p. 30

<sup>5</sup> GI-199 p. 30

<sup>6</sup> NRC guidelines require “that the value-impact of an alternative be quantified as the “net value” (or “net benefit”). To the extent possible, all attributes, whether values or impacts, are quantified in monetary terms and added together (with the appropriate algebraic signs) to obtain the net value in dollars. The net value calculation is generally favored over other measures, such as a value-impact ratio or internal rate of return (RWG 1996, Section III.A.2).” (*Regulatory Analysis Technical Evaluation Handbook: Final Report*, NUREG/BR-0184, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, January 1997, p. 5.2. Link at [http://www.osti.gov/energycitations/product.biblio.jsp?osti\\_id=446391](http://www.osti.gov/energycitations/product.biblio.jsp?osti_id=446391).

reconsidered for the total number of units proposed at the site. The design and cost implications could be significant and must be reconsidered and reevaluated.

## **Conclusions**

25. I agree with the conclusions of the Task Force that significant changes to the NRC's regulatory system are needed in order to ensure that the operation of new reactors and re-licensed existing reactors does not pose unacceptable safety and environmental risks to the public. In light of the disastrous and ongoing events at Fukushima since March 11, 2011, it is clear that the issues of public safety raised by the Task Force are exceptionally grave. I also believe that it is highly likely that consideration of the Task Force's conclusions and recommendations in environmental analyses for new reactor licensing, existing reactor re-licensing, and design certification rulemakings, would materially affect the outcome of many and possibly all those studies.

The facts presented above are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, and the opinions expressed therein are based on my best professional judgment.



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Dr. Arjun Makhijani

Date: 8 August 2011

## Curriculum Vita of Arjun Makhijani

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A recognized authority on energy issues, Dr. Makhijani is the author and co-author of numerous reports and books on energy and environment related issues, including two published by MIT Press. He was the principal author of the first study of the energy efficiency potential of the US economy published in 1971. He is the author of *Carbon-Free and Nuclear-Free: A Roadmap for U.S. Energy Policy* (2007).

In 2007, he was elected Fellow of the American Physical Society. He was named a Ploughshares Hero, by the Ploughshares Fund (2006); was awarded the Jane Bagley Lehman Award of the Tides Foundation in 2008 and the Josephine Butler Nuclear Free Future Award in 2001; and in 1989 he received The John Bartlow Martin Award for Public Interest Magazine Journalism of the Medill School of Journalism, Northwestern University, with Robert Alvarez. He has many published articles in journals and magazines as varied as *The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, *Environment*, *The Physics of Fluids*, *The Journal of the American Medical Association*, and *The Progressive*, as well as in newspapers, including the *Washington Post*.

Dr. Makhijani has testified before Congress, and has appeared on ABC World News Tonight, the CBS Evening News, CBS 60 Minutes, NPR, CNN, and BBC, among others. He has served as a consultant on energy issues to utilities, including the Tennessee Valley Authority, the Edison Electric Institute, the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory, and several agencies of the United Nations.

### *Education:*

- Ph.D. University of California, Berkeley, 1972, from the Department of Electrical Engineering. Area of specialization: plasma physics as applied to controlled nuclear fusion. Dissertation topic: multiple mirror confinement of plasmas. Minor fields of doctoral study: statistics and physics.
- M.S. (Electrical Engineering) Washington State University, Pullman, Washington, 1967. Thesis topic: electromagnetic wave propagation in the ionosphere.
- Bachelor of Engineering (Electrical), University of Bombay, Bombay, India, 1965.

### ***Current Employment:***

- 1987-present: President and Senior Engineer, Institute for Energy and Environmental Research, Takoma Park, Maryland. (part-time in 1987).
- February 3, 2004-present, Associate, SC&A, Inc., one of the principal investigators in the audit of the reconstruction of worker radiation doses under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act under contract to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

### ***Other Long-term Employment***

- 1984-88: Associate Professor, Capitol College, Laurel, Maryland (part-time in 1988).
- 1983-84: Assistant Professor, Capitol College, Laurel, Maryland.
- 1977-79: Visiting Professor, National Institute of Bank Management, Bombay, India. Principal responsibility: evaluation of the Institute's extensive pilot rural development program.
- 1975-87: Independent consultant (see page 2 for details)
- 1972-74: Project Specialist, Ford Foundation Energy Policy Project. Responsibilities included research and writing on the technical and economic aspects of energy conservation and supply in the U.S.; analysis of Third World rural energy problems; preparation of requests for proposals; evaluation of proposals; and the management of grants made by the Project to other institutions.
- 1969-70: Assistant Electrical Engineer, Kaiser Engineers, Oakland California. Responsibilities included the design and checking of the electrical aspects of mineral industries such as cement plants, and plants for processing mineral ores such as lead and uranium ores. Pioneered the use of the desk-top computer at Kaiser Engineers for performing electrical design calculations.

### ***Professional Societies:***

- Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers and its Power Engineering Society
- American Physical Society (Fellow)
- Health Physics Society
- American Association for the Advancement of Science

### ***Awards and Honors:***

- The John Bartlow Martin Award for Public Interest Magazine Journalism of the Medill School of Journalism, Northwestern University, 1989, with Robert Alvarez
- The Josephine Butler Nuclear Free Future Award, 2001
- Ploughshares Hero, Ploughshares Fund, 2006
- Elected a Fellow of the American Physical Society, 2007, "*For his tireless efforts to provide the public with accurate and understandable information on energy and environmental issues*"
- Jane Bagley Lehman Award of the Tides Foundation, 2007/2008

***Invited Faculty Member, Center for Health and the Global Environment, Harvard Medical School:*** Annual Congressional Course, *Environmental Change: The Science and Human Health Impacts*, April 18-19, 2006, Lecture Topic: An Update on Nuclear Power - Is it Safe?

***Consulting Experience, 1975-1987***

Consultant on a wide variety of issues relating to technical and economic analyses of alternative energy sources; electric utility rates and investment planning; energy conservation; analysis of energy use in agriculture; US energy policy; energy policy for the Third World; evaluations of portions of the nuclear fuel cycle.

Partial list of institutions to which I was a consultant in the 1975-87 period:

- Tennessee Valley Authority
- Lower Colorado River Authority
- Federation of Rocky Mountain States
- Environmental Policy Institute
- Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
- International Labour Office of the United Nations
- United Nations Environment Programme
- United Nations Center on Transnational Corporations
- The Ford Foundation
- Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
- United Nations Development Programme

***Languages:*** English, French, Hindi, Sindhi, and Marathi.

***Reports, Books, and Articles (Partial list)***

(Newsletter, newspaper articles, excerpts from publications reprinted in books and magazines or adapted therein, and other similar publications are not listed below)

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Makhijani, A., and Brice Smith, *The Role of E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Company (Du Pont) and the General Electric Company in Plutonium Production and the Associated I-131 Emissions from the Hanford Works*, Institute for Energy and Environmental Research, Takoma Park, Maryland, March 30, 2004.

Makhijani, A., Peter Bickel, Aiyu Chen, and Brice Smith, *Cash Crop on the Wind Farm: A New Mexico Case Study of the Cost, Price, and Value of Wind-Generated Electricity*, Institute for Energy and Environmental Research, Takoma Park, Maryland, April 2004.

Makhijani, A., Lois Chalmers, and Brice Smith, *Uranium Enrichment: Just Plain Facts to Fuel an Informed Debate on Nuclear Proliferation and Nuclear Power*, Institute for Energy and Environmental Research, Takoma Park, Maryland, October 15, 2004.

Makhijani, A., and Brice Smith, *Costs and Risks of Management and Disposal of Depleted Uranium from the National Enrichment Facility Proposed to be Built in Lea County New Mexico by LES*, Institute for Energy and Environmental Research, Takoma Park, Maryland, November 24, 2004.

Makhijani, A., project director, *Examen critique du programme de recherche de l'ANDRA pour déterminer l'aptitude du site de Bure au confinement géologique des déchets à haute activité et à vie longue: Rapport final*, prepared for le Comité ocal d'Information et de Suivi; coordinator: Annie Makhijani; authors: Detlef Appel, Jaak Daemen, George Danko, Yuri Dublyansky, Rod Ewing, Gerhard Jentsch, Horst Letz, Arjun Makhijani, Institute for Energy and Environmental Research, Takoma Park, Maryland, December 2004

Institute for Energy and Environmental Research, *Lower Bound for Cesium-137 Releases from the Sodium Burn Pit at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory*, IEER, Takoma Park, Maryland, January 13, 2005. (Authored by A. Makhijani and Brice Smith.)

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Makhijani, Annie, and A. Makhijani. *Shifting Radioactivity Risks: A Case Study of the K-65 Silos and Silo 3 Remediation and Waste Management at the Fernald Nuclear Weapons Site*, Institute for Energy and Environmental Research, Takoma Park, Maryland, August 2006.

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