

AP1000DCDCEm Resource

From: Eileen Hale [eileenmice@eileenadelehale.com]
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Subject: Comments on PRM-50-104, Docket ID NRC-2012-0046

The on-going events at Fukushima demonstrate that nuclear power disasters can have sustained and far reaching effects. A major concern associated with Fukushima and other nuclear disasters is the evacuation of affected populations. I understand that in the United States, emergency planning for nuclear emergencies has remained largely static since 1980, when regulations pertaining to emergency planning were initially enacted after the Three Mile Island accident. These plans are clearly outdated and do not adequately protect the health and safety of United States citizens.

Specifically, the current 10-mile emergency evacuation zone does not adequately protect from the effects of ionizing radiation, despite what computer modeling and simulations may demonstrate.

The ingestion pathway EPZ is also grossly inadequate, and should be expanded to 100 miles; and current NRC regulations do not require that emergency exercises take into consideration an initiating or concurrent natural disaster that might further complicate accidents and subsequent evacuation efforts; with weather patterns growing more extreme and dangerous, and causing damage to U.S. nuclear reactors, emergency preparedness drills and exercises should include regionally appropriate natural disasters such as droughts, flooding, blizzards, earthquakes, wildfires, and hurricanes.

It is for all these reasons that I request that the NRC adopt the proposed rule expanding emergency planning zones to the respective 25, 50, and 100 mile zones and add a new requirement that emergency exercises include scenarios of regionally appropriate initiating or concurrent natural disasters.

It is evident to me that even these changes will not go far enough to keep us safe, but they would at least improve the handling of a nuclear accident.

Thank you,

Eileen Hale

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