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Consideration on Environmental Impacts on Temporary Storage of Spent Fuel After Cessation of Reactor Operation

Comment On: NRC-2012-0246-0001

Consideration of Environmental Impacts of Temporary Storage of Spent Fuel After Cessation of Reactor Operation

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General Comment

I would like to submit the following document (a news report) as a supplement to my previous public comments regarding seismic risks needing to be included in the scope of this environmental impact statement:

[On July 10, 2012, NHK World/Japan Public Broadcasting reported:

Fuel rod container at Onagawa plant found damaged

The operator of the Onagawa nuclear plant in Miyagi Prefecture has discovered damage to fuel rod containers at the facility's No. 3 reactor.

Japan's nuclear safety agency has ordered Tohoku Electric Power Company to check and report on whether the damage was caused by the massive earthquake on March 11th last year.

The utility recently used an underwater camera to inspect the 4.5-meter-high metal containers in a fuel rod storage pool.

It found a 2-centimeter-long, several-millimeter-wide chip on one of the containers. It also found more than 12 places on other containers where pieces were missing.

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Such damage has never been reported at a nuclear plant in Japan.

Tohoku Electric says the fuel rods are intact, and that there are no safety concerns because the reactor is out of operation.

But it says will investigate the damage in detail, and inspect the plant's No. 1 and 2 units.
Jul. 10, 2012 - Updated 10:57 UTC (19:57 JST)]

In this regard, damage to containers for high-level radioactive waste in Japan due to the 3/11/11 Great Eastern Japan Earthquake would be akin to damage to dry cask storage containers for irradiated nuclear fuel at the North Anna nuclear power plant in Mineral, Virginia. On August 23, 2011, a magnitude 5.8 quake, epi-centered just 11 miles from the nuclear plant, struck. Although Dominion Nuclear told a CNN film crew on the day of or day after the earthquake, as it toured the nuclear plant site, that no damage had occurred at the dry cask storage facility, this was not true. Vertical dry casks had been shifted several inches, and horizontal dry casks suffered significant surface concrete damage.