SECYLettersCEm Resource

From: Edward Mainland [emainland@comcast.net]
Sent: Wednesday, December 12, 2012 5:12 PM

To: NRCExecSec Resource

Subject: Strengthen or Close GE Reactors

NRC Commissioners are set to vote soon on whether or not to require filters and rupture discs on vents used to relieve pressure from containments in a severe accident in reactors designed and manufactured by General Electric.

These Mark I and Mark II reactors showed extreme vulnerability to such accidents at Fukushima in March 2011. They are plagued by serious and fundamental design deficiencies, supply only a small amount of the country's electricity, and ought to be be shut down for good.

Despite the Fukushima disaster, NRC has not acted to improve the safety of these reactors. In a calamitous mishap, the radioactivity released offsite from an unfiltered vent would be huge and dangerous. Why not add a filter to shield families and property from radiation contamination. Filtered systems are available, tested and in use today--for example in Sweden, Germany, France, Switzerland and will be installed in Japan. Why learn the hard way, as did Japan, the folly of not making filters and rupture discs mandatory before the accident.

As part of the Fukushima Lessons Learned Task Force, NRC Staff recommended such filtering. It only made sense when considering that during normal operations and design-basis accidents gaseous releases are filtered but they are not filtered during severe accidents when the releases offsite would be the greatest. But the nuclear industry has been lobbying against this common-sense measure.

I urge NRC Commissioners to act to permanently shut down these dangerous reactors. Short of that, I urge the Commissioners to make a statement that public safety is indeed important, and require installation of these filtered vent systems. I call your attention to the comments submitted to the NRC by Pilgrim Watch on this matter.

Respectfully yours,

Edward Mainland

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