

SECYLettersCEm Resource

From: DENNIS R. NELSON, Energy-Environmental Researcher [dennisonelson987@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2013 11:09 AM
To: NRCExecSec Resource
Subject: SUPPORT EITHER STRENGTHENING OR CLOSING GE REACTORS!

I am the Vice President of the Chicago-based Nuclear Energy Information Service (NEIS), "Illinois' Nuclear Power Watchdog Group": My understanding is that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (USNRC) Commissioners soon will vote on whether (or not) to require filters and rupture discs on vents used to relieve pressure from containments in a severe mishap in boiling water reactors designed and manufactured by General Electric (GE).

These Mark I and Mark II reactors demonstrated their vulnerability to such disasters at the Fukushima nuclear complex (Japan) in March, 2011. These reactors suffer from SERIOUS AND FUNDAMENTAL DESIGN DEFICIENCIES, provide only a SMALL PERCENTAGE of our nation's electricity, and should be PERMANENTLY CLOSED.(In the "Land of Lincoln," four of Exelon's reactors--Quad Cities Units 1 and 2, and Dresden Units 2 and 3--are GE Mark II designs.)

But almost two years after Fukushima, the USNRC has DONE NOTHING to enhance the safety of these reactors. In a severe mishap, the amount of radioactivity released offsite from an unfiltered vent would be extremely large and damaging. It makes no sense not to add a filter to protect ourselves and our property from contamination! Filtered systems are available, tested, and in use today--for example, in Sweden, Germany, France, and Switzerland--and will be installed in Japan. We should NOT have to learn the hard way, as did Japan, about the danger of not requiring filters and rupture discs before the catastrophe.

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

I urge the USNRC Commissioners to IMMEDIATELY ACT TO PERMANENTLY CLOSE ALL OF THESE DANGEROUS REACTORS. Short of that, I urge the USNRC 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 USNRC by Pilgrim Watch on this matter.

Thank you for considering my views!

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