

SECYLettersCEm Resource

From: Wendy Ebersberger [wsebersberger@earthlink.net]
Sent: Thursday, December 13, 2012 10:05 AM
To: NRCExecSec Resource
Subject: Strengthen or Close GE Reactors

I understand that NRC Commissioners 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 demonstrated their vulnerability to such accidents at Fukushima in March 2011. The reactors suffer from serious and fundamental design deficiencies, provide only a small amount of the nation's electricity, and should be permanently closed.

Regrettably, the NRC has done nothing to enhance the safety of these reactors. In a severe accident the amount of radioactivity released offsite from an unfiltered vent would be very large and damaging. It makes no sense not to add a filter to protect our environment from contamination. Filtered systems are available, tested and in use today in Sweden, Germany, France, and Switzerland, and soon in Japan. We shouldn't have to learn the hard way, the danger of not requiring filters and rupture discs now.

As part of the Fukushima Lessons Learned Task Force, the NRC Staff recommended such filtering because 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. However, the nuclear industry has been lobbying against this common-sense measure.

I urge the NRC Commissioners to act to permanently close 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 also urge you to see the comments submitted to the NRC by Pilgrim Watch on this matter.

Thank you.

Wendy Ebersberger

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