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From: William Swann [bswann@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, December 13, 2012 11:47 AM
To: NRCExecSec Resource
Subject: Strengthen or Close GE Reactors

I understand that the NRC 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 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. These reactors suffer from serious and fundamental design deficiencies, provide only a small amount of the nation's electricity, and should be permanently closed.

But nearly two years after Fukushima, 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 families and property from contamination. Filtered systems are available, tested and in use today--for example in Sweden, Germany, France, Switzerland and will be installed in Japan. We shouldn't have to learn the hard way, as did Japan, the danger of not requiring filters and rupture discs before the accident.

As part of the Fukushima Lessons Learned Task Force, the 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 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 call your attention to the comments submitted to the NRC by Pilgrim Watch on this matter.

Thank you.

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