

## SECYLettersCEm Resource

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**From:** Margaret Smith [MacSmith36@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 16, 2012 12:41 AM  
**To:** NRCExecSec Resource  
**Subject:** Strengthen or Close GE Reactors

An Introduction by Dr. Paul A. Smith who is a

Doctoral Degree Nuclear Physicist and is familiar with nuclear physics as an academically trained physicist - - - privileged to work with three of the top "Atomic Scientists" who played key roles in creating the first three atomic bombs: Nobel Prize Winner A. H. Compton, Edward Condon, and Bernard Feld.

I served for about fifteen years on the National Council of the American Association of Physics Teachers and visited Russia and China in 1983 with a delegation of American Physics Teachers talking personally with many physics teachers in major Russian and Chinese Universities.

I got to know personally, Duane Arnold after whom the Nuclear Power Plant near Cedar Rapids Iowa was named, having been in his office to visit with him personally about three times; at my INITIATIVE AND ALSO AT HIS REQUEST, IN DOING HIM A FAVOR.

I am a Professor Emeritus, who served in the Coe College Physics Department during 1964 - 1999. That physics department which I chaired for many years, now seems to be the location of the WORLD'S largest UNDERGRADUATE PHYSICS RESEARCH CENTER, WITH A FOCUS ON THE STUDY OF THE GLASS-STATE-OF-MATTER USING MANY DIFFERENT KINDS OF GLASS; WITH ABOUT ONE THIRD OF THE UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCHERS BEING FEMALES.

UNDER-GRADUATE RESEARCH STUDENTS HAVE TRAVELED TO DISTANT PARTS OF THE WORLD TO PRESENT RESEARCH FINDINGS IN PERSON; AND HAVE PUBLISHED COUNTLESS RESEARCH FINDINGS IN GLOBALLY READ PUBLICATIONS.

IN LIGHT OF THE ABOVE; I SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS.

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.

Margaret Smith

Fort Collins, CO 80525

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