

SECYLettersCEm Resource

From: Sid Greene [siddo@sonic.net]
Sent: Sunday, December 16, 2012 12:58 PM
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.

Radiation poisoning is one of the most painful and gradual deaths imaginable. In addition, the toxins released do not degrade easily or quickly--plutonium, for instance, has a half-life of 24,000 years. To NOT put in place every single known protection from leaks is irresponsible to public health and safety, worldwide (it takes seven days for weather to traverse the globe). Even the smallest amount of radioactive waste in the body acts as a constant cancer-producer.

We would think, after Fukushima, GE itself might demand stronger protections. But as long as the corporations profiting from proliferation of their nuclear parts around the world are not liable for the damage, our environment continues to be polluted with carcinogenic radioactive waste, and this fact is reflected in national health statistics.

In California, many reactors are built on faultlines--these need to be decommissioned immediately, given the extreme weather fluctuations and rising seas due to climate change we are beginning to see, of which nuclear energy production is a huge contributor. The earthquake on the east coast show us we can neither predict nor adequately prepare for the atmospheric and biospheric changes we continue to contribute to.

Cancer is now the leading killer in this country, not heart disease--an extremely and unfortunately pertinent fact in discussing energy sources.. We need the nuclear regulatory

comission to consider current and future generations and the corporations profiting from the nuclear industry will not do so until made to--their profiteering is polluting the planet for current and future generations--drastically. Please begin to take down nuclear-generators worldwide while we still can, and implement clean, renewable energy sources for your children, grandchildren, and your own quality of life--in responsibility and in consideration of the health and welfare of United States citizens and the citizens of the world, current, and 24,000 years into the future--the effect of our decisions, actions and inactions with nuclear energy sources now can last 24,000 years into the future. Seriously--please consider human life on the entire planet over GE's and other manufacturer's profits and close nuclear reactors everywhere.

Thank you.

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