

SECYLettersCEm Resource

From: Eleanor Gavin [elliegavin@comcast.net]
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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. But the nuclear industry has been lobbying shamelessly against this common-sense measure, concerned more with the size of its bank accounts than public safety. NIRS urges the NRC Commissioners to act to permanently close all reactors as quickly as possible. In the interim, the Commissioners must require installation of these filtered vent systems.

From a member of NIRS: To the NRC.. Thank you for being the decision makers re: nuclear reactor safety. It is one of the most important jobs in the world. But now the U.S. and many other nations do not want nuclear power any more. My husband is retired. He worked for over 35 years for Combustion Engineering, Windsor, CT. This was after he received his PhD in Nuclear Engineering from EPUL (Ecole Polytechnique de l'universite de Lausanne.(Switzerland's "MIT"). It was a technology that had to be tried. Atoms for Peace. they said! It was predicted to be cost effective, safe. It is neither, and all reactors must now close as safely as they can (NO "SAFE-STOR") because no radioactivity must be released from the spent fuel pools which would be vulnerable under Safe-Stor. Instead, like Maine Yankee, all spent fuel rods must be placed in steel-reinforced concrete canisters and maintained for millions of years in a repository that is hermetic.,i.e. no moisture can enter or leave. This is going to cost a lot, so it is idiotic to spend money on new reactors.. THE WORLD HAS TO GET ITS ACT TOGETHER !! HOW MANY PEOPLE HAVE TO DIE FROM CANCER, ETC.. SOON IT WILL BE TOO LATE. P. S. For the latest statistics for Fukushima- induced thyroid cancer, Leukemia, Breast Cancer, etc from World Health Organization (WHO) : go to:
<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/uk/Fukushima-disaster-has-raised-cancer-risk-WHO/articleshow/18742016.cms>

A huge Thank You to the NRC in advance for doing all you can to convince the DOE, and the U.S. President to announce a quick phase out of commercial nuclear reactors, starting this year..asap. and it should be applicable to all reactors whether or not they have reached their 40th year. Failing that-- filtered vent systems must be installed in all MARK I and II BWRs but that is no panacea. So many other things can go wrong and be just as bad as Fukushima.

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