

SECYLettersCEm Resource

From: Rodney Knudson [knudson@rtconnect.net]
Sent: Monday, March 04, 2013 6:22 PM
To: NRCExecSec Resource
Subject: Filtered Vents: Strengthen or Close GE Reactors

It is clear that Sweden, Germany and Switzerland have adopted a "defense in depth" approach to the proper venting of their boiling water reactors by adding filtered vents and rupture disks, which are passive means for relieving pressure that don't depend on operators to make a decision. Our populations deserve no less protection from the release of biologically radioactive nuclides. I subscribe to what is being said below.

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.

I urge the NRC Commissioners to act to permanently close these dangerous reactors as quickly as possible. In the interim, the Commissioners must require installation of these filtered vent systems.

Thank you.

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