

SECYLettersCEm Resource

From: Marcia Halligan [cocoon@mwt.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 05, 2013 10:32 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.

However, nearly two years after Fukushima, the NRC did 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 defies sense not to add a filter to protect our families and property from contamination. Filtered systems available, tested and in use today--for example in Sweden, Germany, France, Switzerland will also be installed in Japan. We should not need to learn from a disaster, 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 lobbies 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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