

SECYLettersCEm Resource

From: Linda Howe [lhowe@verizon.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2013 4:09 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. 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.

Linda Howe

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Federal Register Notice: LTR-12-0782
Comment Number: 5408

Mail Envelope Properties (1995415563.32982.1364328562535.JavaMail.tomcat)

Subject: Strengthen or Close GE Reactors
Sent Date: 3/26/2013 4:09:22 PM
Received Date: 3/26/2013 4:09:23 PM
From: Linda Howe

Created By: lhowe@verizon.net

Recipients:
"NRCExecSec Resource" <NRCExecSec.Resource@nrc.gov>
Tracking Status: None

Post Office: vweb17.salsalabs.net

Files	Size	Date & Time
MESSAGE	1635	3/26/2013 4:09:23 PM

Options
Priority: Standard
Return Notification: No
Reply Requested: No
Sensitivity: Normal
Expiration Date:
Recipients Received: