

Case No: 2013-0238
 Date Recd: 5/6/13
 Agent: Dennis
 Initials: [redacted]

Wright, Darlene

From: Karen Maute (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, May 01, 2013 10:46 PM
To: CHAIRMAN Resource
Cc: CMRSVINICKI Resource; CMRAPOSTOLAKIS Resource; CMRMAGWOOD Resource; CMROSTENDORFF Resource
Subject: FOIA and concerns
Attachments: FTR_5-1-13_NRC Involvement.pdf

Honorable Chairman Macfarlane and Esteemed Members of the Commission,

I had requested and expected a response to concerns (below) prior to the convening of the Uranium Recovery Workshop today. I received no response. The local newspaper ran two articles which is how I knew the NRC was aware of concerns.

http://www.newsadvance.com/go_dan_river/news/pittsylvania_county/uranium/article_701a58aa-b1eb-11e2-a913-001a4bcf6878.html

http://www.newsadvance.com/go_dan_river/news/pittsylvania_county/uranium/article_09738c84-b128-11e2-9aab-001a4bcf6878.html

Given its close and long-standing relationship with the NMA it seems odd that members/speakers of the NRC were unaware of the co-sponsorship found on NMA materials. Also, of concern is that this issue has been presented to, and supposedly addressed, by the NRC and NMA previously. Changing the printed material does not alleviate concerns regarding the 2013 URW.

I was emailed the NRC News (attached) this evening. Paragraph #1 of the NRC News publication states, "Subsequent media coverage did not completely clarify our role." It is not the media's responsibility to clarify the NRC's role. Apparently, that went badly.

Paragraph # 2 of the NRC News states, "Despite including a disclaimer that this was not an NRC meeting, the NMA had listed the NRC as a "co-sponsor" of the meeting on several pages of their website." I request, under the **Freedom of Information Act**, documentation of the disclaimer which include the date when the disclaimer was issued.

Paragraph # 3 mentions the NRC's mission. Your website states, "The NRC licenses and regulates the Nation's civilian use of radioactive materials to protect public health and safety, promote the common defense and security, and protect the environment." I do not see "current issues affecting the uranium recovery industry and... focus on enhancing and promoting a better understanding of regulatory trends and the uranium recovery licensing program" listed in NRC's mission statement. Perhaps I do not have the full document. I request, under the **Freedom of Information Act**, documentation of NRC's mission.

Also, in paragraph #3, there is no mention of the public...unless perhaps you consider other stakeholders as the American public. Please clarify.

I find paragraphs #4 and #5 particularly offensive in light of the fact that citizens of Pittsylvania County and an elected county official were refused by NRC when invited to speak here, stating it would instead work through the Uranium Working Group, a political creation of Virginia's Governor. <http://pbadupws.nrc.gov/docs/ML1210/ML121010049.pdf>

We are very alert here in Southside Virginia as the threat of uranium mines and associated milling and radioactive waste storage and disposal loom on the horizon. In my humble opinion, representing no one but myself, remarks from NRC and NMA representatives and today's NRC News appear to be an attempt to cover up rather than clarify.

Karen B. Maute

Honorable Chairman Macfarlane and Esteemed Members of the Commission,

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is exceeding its authority as a regulatory agency in the state of Virginia. It is functioning as an advocate for uranium mining (over which it has no regulatory authority), milling and radioactive waste

disposal, and is interfering with state politics. Engagement in the advocacy and politics of uranium mining, milling, and radioactive waste erodes the public trust in your obligation and commitment to impartially license and regulate the Nation's civilian use of radioactive materials, to protect public health and safety, promote the common defense and security, and protect the environment.

Information at <http://www.nrc.gov/materials/uranium-recovery.html> addresses uranium recovery issues and has a link to the Uranium Working Group (UWG). **This link should be removed from the NRC website.** #1) UWG was created by Governor Bob McDonnell at the requested by the VA Coal and Energy Commission. #2) Its creation was politically motivated to create a draft statutory and conceptual regulatory framework after the General Assembly's decision to maintain the current ban on uranium mining. #3) NRC refused invitation by citizens and local elected officials to outline its regulatory role stating it would instead work through the UWG <http://pbadupws.nrc.gov/docs/ML1210/ML121010049.pdf>

There are numerous references regarding Virginia uranium, Inc. (VUI) in the UWG report. Virginia does not permit uranium mining. Virginia Uranium, Inc., the company lobbying to lift the present moratorium, has not submitted an application to the NRC. The reference to the work of the UWG gives the appearance that the NRC is an advocate of VUI and it's lobbying efforts.

The NRC and National Mining Association have held uranium mining workshops for several years. This year's speakers include Patrick Wales of VUI and Andrea Jannetta of Weekly Fuel Cycle. Their presentation is *The Coles Hill Uranium Deposit: An Update on Politics and Path Forward in Virginia* <http://www.uraniumrecoveryworkshop2013.myevent.com/3/family.htm> . **This should be stricken from the agenda. If not, NRC should not participate in the event.** #1) This topic is suited for a VUI investors meeting and not a meeting sponsored by a commission which licenses and regulates the industry. #2) The mining of uranium is prohibited in Virginia, #3) VUI has not submitted a permit application to NRC for uranium recovery. #4) Ms. Jannetta is an activist who resorts to intimidation and belittling of well-meaning citizen stakeholders <http://www.idiquining.com/category/videos/>

The NRC/NMA Uranium Recovery Workshop is open to the public. However, they are charged twice the amount (\$250) of NMA members and government employees or speakers (\$125). Why? Citizens are stakeholders and should not be penalized because they are not government employees or industry insiders.

At some time, citizens of Virginia may have to rely on the NRC to license and regulate uranium recovery operations and wastes. If the public is to have even minimal trust that the NRC can and will protect public health and safety, promote the common defense and security, and protect the environment they need to start now. Issues above demand addressing. I expect a response to this request prior to the the convening of the NRC/NMA Uranium Recovery Workshop.

Sincerely,
Karen B. Maute

(b)(6)

