NRCExecSec Resource

From: cathy iwane <cathyiwane@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2014 12:38 PM
To: NRCExecSec Resource
Cc: best@matrr.org
Subject: Make Radiation Visible

Nuclear Regulatory Commission NRC Commissioners
Chairman Allison M. MacFarlane
Kristine L. Svinicki George Apostolakis
William D. Magwood, IV William C. Ostendorff
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001
NRCExecSec@nrc.gov

Re: The health, safety, and security of the American people

Dear NRC Commissioners,

I want to add my voice to these groups who call on the NRC to protect the health and safety of U.S. citizens from the dangers of radioactive poisons. The extremely serious and very long range problem of 'spent' fuel radioactive waste neutralization (or even safe storage) has not been solved after 55 years of intensive research, yet utility companies continue to generate massive radioactive waste piles at nuclear power plants across this country – radioactive trash that will remain toxic for 100,000 years. It is time to admit that the experiment of commercial nuclear fission has failed, simply because the inordinate amount of long- term, unmanageable toxic waste does not justify the cost to our people or environment. We call on you to focus now on the safety of existing nuclear plants, on decommissioning, on the safe storage of radionuclide wastes, and on alerting the public to radioactive health threats in their environment. We also call on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to definitively reject all new license requests or license renewals for commercial nuclear reactors.

One in three Americans now lives within the 50 mile danger zone of a nuclear power plant [1] – plants that are vulnerable to earthquakes, tsunamis, hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, fires, containment metal-fatigue, loss of coolant backup power, and/or terrorist attacks. Fukushima Daiichi was a three- fold disaster – two were natural disasters, but the nuclear disaster was man-made and therefore preventable. How many disasters do you require before a reasonable overall program is implemented to prevent a commercial nuclear disaster in the U.S.? We think the only method of prevention is to shut down and decommission the plants and to store the accumulated radionuclide waste using the safest means possible. Energy Efficiency and Renewables are now both adequate and less expensive than nuclear. The safety of the American people should not be sacrificed to commercial nuclear power contractors [2,3] – if you indeed accept the NRC mission to protect the health and safety of the American people,[4,5] to help provide for common defense and security,[6,7] and to protect the environment from the dangers of civilian, commercial radiation. [8]

Radiation poisoning is invisible and insidious, but it does not need to be. We think all radioactive emissions should be reported to the public as airborne health hazards (like pollen reports), and that these toxic emissions should be required to have bright distinctive dye markers - so that we can see where they fall on our cars, lawns, homes, pets and children, as well as in our water. It would be no different than requirements for odor markers for natural gas and propane, and could save the lives of our children – especially in the event of a nuclear accident or malicious attack. These radioactive emissions are being released somewhere in the U.S. on a daily basis – from nuclear power

plants, nuclear fuel manufacturing and storage facilities, and nuclear fuel railway and highway transports, as well as nuclear weapons facilities. The American people deserve to know when they are being exposed to carcinogenic and DNA-altering poisons. [9,10]

Some may argue that routine radioactive releases are generally small amounts, but numerous studies show that even low dose radiation is dangerous – especially to women, children and unborn fetuses. Radionuclides are extremely toxic and there is no safe dose of radiation; therefore, the public should be alerted to its presence. Multiple definitive studies show there is no threshold to the biological effect of radiation on human cells and DNA.[11] Some people have greater immunity than others, but the risk exists for the public as a whole. It is your duty to protect us, and accurate information about public health threats is the first line of defense.

We call on the NRC to create the following new regulations and procedures to protect U.S. citizens:

• 1. Require distinctive visual dye-markers (like natural gas and propane odor markers), so that all radionuclide emission releases become readily identifiable as such, in order to protect the public from this very real public health danger.

• 2. Require that the public be alerted via news reports (like pollen alerts) to each release of radiation from venting, fuel transfers, or any other accidental, intentional or incidental release of radionuclide emissions into our air, land, and/or water.

• 3. Require that all radioactive trash be stored using the safest known technologies. Currently, for commercial nuclear power plants, the safest means of protecting the public from these radioactive poisons is to move so-called 'spent' fuel rods from cooling pools (after 5 years) to storage in hardened on-site dry-cask storage (HOSS) facilities. [12]

• 4. Resolve to not grant any more commercial reactor licenses, either for new or renewed/ extended operation. In order to stop creating more radioactive poisons at nuclear power plants, the NRC needs to stop providing nuclear power plant contractors with new and/or renewed nuclear reactor licenses (like Germany has done).

Thank you for your service to our country and your careful consideration of our concerns.

Respectfully,
Cathy Iwane

and

Mothers Against Tennessee River Radiation
Bellefonte Efficiency & Sustainability Team
Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League
Neighborhood Environment Watch
Tennessee Environmental Council Mountain Justice
Deep Green Resistance
Safe Alternatives for Future Energy Carolinas
Georgia Women's Actions for New Directions
Nukewatch
Citizens to End Nuclear Dumping in Tennessee
Nuclear Watch South

Concerned Citizens of Shell Bluff
People Against A Radioactive Chesapeake
CC: President Barack Obama, Energy Secretary Steven Chu, Health Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano, Environment Administrator Lisa P. Jackson, Domestic Nuclear Detection Office