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To: NRCExecSec Resource; NRC Ed Hackett
Subject: Another Nuke Power Front Group

Yet Another Nuclear Power Plant Front Group

Yes, the nuclear industry is truly on the ropes. A sure sign of it is the establishment of yet another pro-nuclear front group, "Nuclear Matters". Why yet another one?! The nuke industry already has the:

- *Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI)*
- *Clean and Safe Energy Coalition (CASEnergy)-created over a handful of years ago by NEI.*
- *Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) itself-this "regulator" long ago was "captured" by the industry it is supposed to regulate. The NRC public relations group regularly publishes premier pro-nuclear stuff-stuff that any nuke utility's PR group would be proud of.*

"Nuclear Matters" is the new pro-nuke front group on the block. Although nothing is mentioned about its sponsor in the full-page newspaper ads this group pays for, Nuclear Matters is totally funded by our country's largest nuclear plant owner, Exelon.

Exelon's US nuclear fleet includes 23 reactors at 14 different sites. As pointed out in the article at this link,

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/elliott-negin/nuclear-giant-exelon-laun_b_5428994.html

the nuclear industry is in dire straits. This is so "Mainly because of cheap natural gas and dampened electricity demand due to energy efficiency programs and a sluggish economy. The most vulnerable plants are in states with deregulated electricity markets, such as Illinois. Unlike regulated utilities, which are guaranteed an annual rate of return, these "merchant" plants sell power on the wholesale market and are being underpriced by their competition."

Furthermore the article states, "The (Nuclear Matters) website also lists some of the commonly cited reasons for the industry's current plight, but, echoing Exelon, also blames federal and state policies that support wind and solar power, which it claims "distorts" electricity markets. Not only is that a dubious assertion, it's especially ironic given the nuclear industry would not be economically viable without more than 50 years of federal subsidies, many of which continue to this day."

US nuclear plants pose a great risk to public safety. That they are in economic trouble and that some may be forced from service as a result is a blessing. Nuke plants, no matter how poor their safety performance is, will certainly not be regulated out of business by their lax regulatory industry bedfellow, the NRC. The nuclear industry is so invested in these old nuclear plants (with our money) that they just cannot let go. Kind of like a person coming into contact with a live electrical circuit. You may be shocked to beat hell but you just can't let go!

Richard Andrews