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September 26, 1980

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington  
D. C. 20555

RE: CESG revised motion to reopen McGuire operating  
license proceeding (Docket Number 50-369-50-370)  
of August 15, 1980

Dear Sirs:

As was the concern of SECY 80-107, June 26, 1980, McGuire poses a number of uncertain responses in the event of a rapid generation of hydrogen such as was the case at Three Mile Island.

McGuire incorporates ice condenser and hydrogen re-combiner systems, yet neither has been shown to be effective in a rapid evolution event. Indeed the re-combiners installed at TMI to remove hydrogen probably caused the combustion incident there.

Being a small steel containment with a low yield factor, McGuire probably could not survive an incident like TMI. Yet such an accident is credible and could very well happen during the operating lifetime of the plant.

In their intensified efforts to put McGuire on line, Duke Power has made light of, and even denied the existence of the facts presented in SECY 80-107. Duke has maintained a position of arrogant authority in response to CESG contentions concerning their baby. Such an attitude in lieu of Duke's responsibility to the people here is inexcusable. It serves no useful purpose for Duke to deny the shortcomings of the McGuire plant. In fact, the only responsible action that can be taken now is for the NRC-ASLB to reopen the licensing hearings and for Duke to own up to their mistakes and correct them, in the public interest (something foreign to Duke shareholders, I'm sure).

Information concerning the failings of the McGuire plant in terms of design and operating capability is being made public at a rapid pace. Not even the steamrolling media blitz by Duke and the entire nuclear industry now being conducted can cover up gravity of the McGuire case.

More study is in order on the part of the NRC staff; a reopening of the McGuire licensing hearings is imperative if the NRC cares to maintain any semblance in the public eye of a regulatory agency and not a tool of the industry.

Sincerely,

  
Mike Fennell

P.S. We all got a good laugh when we heard about the "igniter" idea. When all the best efforts of the American nuclear industry fail, we can always count on GM to come through.

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