

How stupid can you people get in Washington - earthquakes in Maine. Please check how many Maine has had in a 100 years.

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Five large nuclear power plants being shut down

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Nuclear Regulatory Commission said Tuesday it is shutting down five large nuclear power plants in the East, probably for a month or more, to make sure they can withstand earthquakes without a disastrous collapse.

The five plants have a total elec-

tric generating capacity of some 4,107 megawatts, equivalent to the energy in about 60,126 barrels of oil a day.

Harold Denton, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's director of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, said the shutdowns could cause some power shortages locally and proba-

bly will mean higher cost electricity for customers as the utilities involved make more demands for other energy sources.

He also said the utilities probably will have to burn more oil, already in short supply because of production interruptions in Iran.

But Denton said the commission

is not allowed to consider the economic and social repercussions of its safety regulations and actions.

Denton said the agency is issuing "show cause" orders requiring the five plants to shut down within 48 hours unless they can prove their vital water-piping can withstand earthquakes.

Denton said there is no chance the utility companies can meet that deadline, so they must close.

Denton said the review of the earthquake safety of the plants was prompted by discovery of an error in computer programs that were used to determine the safety of the plants at the time they were licensed.

He said the plants required to close for re-evaluation of their earthquake safety are the 852 megawatt Beaver Valley plant at Shippingport, Pa.; two Virginia Electric and Power Co. plants at Surry, Va.; the Maine Yankee plant, a 790-megawatt operation at Wiscasset, Maine; and the 821 megawatt James Fitzpatrick plant at Scriba, N.Y.

Beatrice N. Smith
7 Smith St.
Skowhegan, Maine 04976

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