

Doug Tiffitt  
KYI  
Don Sundziel

9 Twin Orchard Drive  
Oswego, NY 13126  
July 14, 2025

Philip Church  
Oswego County Administrator  
46 E. Bridge St.  
Oswego, NY 13126

Dear Mr. Philip Church:

I don't like surprises and I am guessing that you don't either. I am writing today to tell you some of my thoughts on the possible increase of the United States commercial nuclear power generation industry. So where is the surprise? It is this: the regulation of this industry here in the United States is either changing or has already changed.

As a result, local people depending on a physical containment to protect them from a radioactive accident release will learn that, today, a "functional" containment will be provided instead.

What about a well trained and well (financially) supported emergency response organization? You can forget about this, at least with Small Modular Reactors. The idea here seems to be that some good Samaritan people passing by might be willing to help in the event of an accident. Or, since these SMR plants have been decreed safer than the present fleet reactors, somebody would call FEMA, (assuming they have not been eliminated to save federal government expense) and you would wait until they would arrive. (Unfortunately, although this mode of operation is apparently typical, it is questionable if they receive any nuclear related training.)

And, how about that 10 mile evacuation, (50 mile food quarantine zone)? That is out as well. You see, if you start out saying that Small Modular Reactors are small, (like maybe 30 Megawatts electric), then you can lump them with Research Reactors, which are even smaller. The Emergency Planning Zone boundary that they, (Research Reactors), worry about stops at the outer wall of their building.

This eliminates that 10 mile distance zone for them, and for Small Modular Reactors as well.

What about trained, licensed operators? Well, there is a new idea being discussed for SMRs. It is Generally Licensed Operators. These operators would receive this rating based solely on the requirements of the plant owner. Specifically, it does not appear that there will be any U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission involvement/oversight at all.

Also, if SMRs are small enough to be trucked to the site ready to operate, do you think that they can be trucked back off the site just as easily? They might not be too radioactive when they arrive but they might just be too radioactive to remove.

Finally, have there been any decommissioning fund requirements established? I believe this is a current area of silence.

I have tried to point out areas that bother me so you can have a more up-to-date idea of what may be happening. I recommend that you consider obtaining more information on any of these areas that interest Oswego County from somebody presently working in the industry, as well as the US NRC Governmental liaison for Region I, (who is Doug Tiff. His telephone number is 610-337-6918. The Region I mailing address is: 475 Allendale Rd., Suite 102; King of Prussia, PA 19406-1415.)

Thank you,

Tom Gurdziel

