

Public Interest Perspective on Construction Oversight

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New Construction in South Carolina, Georgia

**VC Summer – Aug. 11;
SCE&G: start up delayed
until late 2017 or early
2018**



**MOX plant at SRS – March 29;
DOE: baseline cost increased
to \$7.7 billion, start up
slipped till 2017 or later**



Public Participation

- **Participation is low at public meetings on oversight process or annual updates;**
- **Participation is very low on the frequent calls on AP1000 reactor design-change issues;**
- **No calls on MOX plant on-going inspection, only annual meeting.**

NRC Outreach Inadequate

- **For AP1000 meetings, only via public meeting listings, email lists, individual requests;**
- **Annual updates, also via NRC news releases but little media coverage or public attendance;**
- **On NRC homepage – no “spotlight” on AP1000 COLs or MOX.**

NRC web content confusion

- **Difficult for public to piece together the regulatory process and status of regulation and construction;**
- **Must go to numerous pages to find information on the process, reports, schedules, resulting in confusion;**
- **Language is very technical, hard to follow, discouraging general public.**

NRC oversight process not oriented to public

- **Public must have been deeply involved from the start to have a chance of understanding license review and inspection process;**
- **License Amendment Requests and Construction Reactor Oversight Process are oriented internally and to licensees and not public;**
- **NRC staff generally approachable but often only on meeting at hand.**

Recommendations

- **Create links on new facility construction on NRC homepage;**
- **Provide clear non-technical updates on where construction and oversight stand;**
- **Describe oversight process in plain language understandable by general public and media;**

Recommendations, cont.

- **Descriptions of regulatory process too technical and based on regulations which most people will not review and are not familiar with, written for NRC staff and licensees and not the public;**
- **Continue to enhance website and ADAMS to reduce confusion;**

Recommendations, cont.

- **NRC must decide if resources will be allocated toward increased public involvement, if such participation is desired. As a regulatory agency with a public aspect, this is not only desirable but urgently needed as construction of AP1000 reactors and the MOX plant continue.**