

To: Leeds, NRR

Joosten, Sandy

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**Sent:** Tuesday, August 21, 2012 11:06 PM  
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**Subject:** Fukushima-related Comments for 8-21-2012  
**Attachments:** Roseton, NY 3 of 3.jpg

Mercke, OEDO

Good morning,

#### Spent Fuel

I don't know if the two nuclear plants running in Japan are PWRs or BWRs. If they are BWRs with elevated spent fuel pools, it is my advice to unload ALL spent fuel older than 5 years as a preventive measure. (Probably this has already been done.) With the size of the already constructed spent fuel pools constant, the time to respond to a spent fuel pool accident should increase, thus reducing risk (in advance).

#### Performance-based Selection

I was working on the Roseton, NY two unit fossil fuel steam plant being constructed when I became amazed by the structural steel erection contractor. Didn't he know anything? Instead of erecting the first boilerhouse and turbine hall, then using what he had learned to do the second one better (as any engineering college graduate would have thought), he actually rented two cranes and called for two crews to be working at the same time.

Why? Well, it turns out that competition between crews had a much greater effect than any "learning curve." (The connecting gang at Unit 1 wasn't going to let the connecting gang at Unit 2 get ahead of them. And, the connecting gang at Unit 2 felt the same way about the Unit 1 gang.) (The picture is of one crew working in one boilerhouse.)

We need to get the fuel out of the damaged Fukushima Daiichi units and, so far, I would have to say that nothing has been done. (Two new fuel bundles is, in the overall picture, at 1 and ½ years, nothing.) Here is what I suggest. Split up the Unit 4 Spent Fuel Pool unloading job into two pieces and award two contracts. And do them both at the same time.

That's right. One can work from noon to midnight. The other can work from midnight to noon. We will be able to see who can do the work removing spent/possibly damaged nuclear fuel better. And, another plus, we probably won't see a lot of prima-donna behavior.

There probably will be two useful results. We will finally get the spent fuel out of the Unit 4 elevated spent fuel pool in our lifetime, (not 1 or 2 generations into the future), and we will have a good idea of who to use on the Unit 1 and Unit 2 and Unit 3 work.

Thank you,

Tom Gurdziel



