

SECYLettersCEm Resource

From: Janet Dunkelberger [dunkelberger@juno.com]
Sent: Thursday, December 13, 2012 7:55 AM
To: NRCExecSec Resource
Subject: Strengthen or Close GE Reactors

This is in regard to the NRC Commissioners upcoming vote on whether or not to require filters and rupture discs on vents used to relieve pressure from containments in a severe accident in reactors designed and manufactured by General Electric.

GE Mark I and Mark II reactors demonstrated their vulnerability to such accidents at Fukushima in March 2011. These reactors suffer from serious and fundamental design deficiencies, provide only a small amount of the nation's electricity, and should be permanently closed.

But nearly two years after Fukushima, the reactors are still operating and NRC has done nothing to enhance their safety. In a severe accident the amount of radioactivity released offsite from an unfiltered vent would be very large and damaging. It makes no sense not to add a filter to protect our families and property from contamination. Filtered systems are available, tested and in use today--for example in Sweden, Germany, France, Switzerland and will be installed in Japan. We shouldn't have to learn the hard way, as did Japan, the danger of not requiring filters and rupture discs before the accident.

As part of the Fukushima Lessons Learned Task Force, the NRC Staff recommended such filtering. But the nuclear industry has been lobbying against this obviously essential measure.

In view of the potential for catastrophic consequences compared to the minimal contribution to the electricity grid, it seems most prudent for the NRC Commissioners to act to permanently close these dangerous reactors. Short of that, I urge the Commissioners to make a statement that public safety is indeed important, and require installation of filtered vent systems.

Thank you.

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