

SECYLettersCEm Resource

From: DENNIS R. NELSON, Energy-Environmental Researcher [dennisonelson987@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2013 12:13 PM
To: NRCExecSec Resource
Subject: EITHER STRENGTHEN OF CLOSE ALL GE REACTORS!

Earlier today (Friday, January 18, 2013), I sent you a version of this letter. However, there is a minor typo which should be corrected: The four Exelon nuclear reactors here in Illinois (Quad Cities 1 and 2, and Dresden 2 and 3) are General Electric (GE) Mark I designs, NOT GE Mark II designs! Sorry about that!! I understand that the USNRC Commissioners soon will vote on whether or not to require filters and rupture discs on vents used to relieve pressure from containments in a severe mishap in nuclear reactors designed and manufactured by General Electric.

These Mark I and Mark II reactors demonstrated their vulnerability to such disasters 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 USNRC has done nothing to enhance the safety of these reactors. In a severe catastrophe, 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 ourselves and our property from contamination! Filtered systems are available, tested and in use today--for example in Sweden, Germany, France, and Switzerland--and will be installed in Japan. We should not have to learn the hard way, as did Japan, the danger of not requiring filters and rupture discs before the mishap.

As part of the Fukushima Lessons Learned Task Force, the USNRC staff recommended such filtering. It only made sense when considering that during normal operations and design-basis mishaps gaseous releases are filtered but they are not filtered during severe disasters when the releases offsite would be the greatest. But the nuclear industry has been lobbying against this common-sense measure.

I urge the USNRC Commissioners to act to permanently close all of these dangerous reactors! Short of that, I urge the USNRC Commissioners to make a statement that public safety is indeed important, and require installation of these filtered vent systems. I call your attention to the comments submitted to the USNRC by Pilgrim Watch on this matter.

Thank you again!

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