

FOIA/PA REQUEST
Case No.: 2013-0139
Date Rec'd: 2-19-13
Specialist: Phelps
Related Case: _____

FOIA Resource

From: Paul Gunter <paul@beyondnuclear.org>
Sent: Monday, February 18, 2013 8:06 PM
To: FOIA Resource
Subject: FOIA Request pertaining to Rotterdamsche Droogdok Maatschappij reactor pressure vessels in US reactors
Attachments: doel_us_foia_02192013.pdf

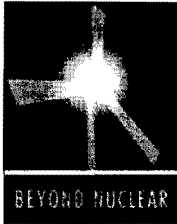
To whom it may concern,

Attached please find Beyond Nuclear request under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) for release of information pertaining to reactor pressure vessels in the Belgium nuclear power plants Doel Unit 3 and Tihange Unit 2 manufactured by the Dutch company Rotterdamsche Droogdok Maatschappij (RDM) and US nuclear power plants, Catawba Unit 1, McGuire Unit 2, North Anna Units 1 and 2, Quad Cities Unit 2, Sequoyah Units 1 and 2, Surry Units 1 and 2 and Watts Bar Unit 1.

Thank you,
Paul Gunter

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Paul Gunter, Director
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February 19, 2013

Chief
Division of Freedom of Information and Publication Services
Office of Administration
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555
BY EMAIL: foia@nrc.gov

**Beyond Nuclear request under the Freedom of Information Act regarding
U.S. reactors with Reactor Pressure Vessels manufactured by
Rotterdamsche Droogdok Maatschappij (RDM)**

To Whom It May Concern:

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA); 5 U.S.C. 552(b), et seq., Beyond Nuclear hereby requests information for the subject matter described as follows. This request covers but is not limited to all draft and final reports, correspondence, memoranda, notes, records of telephone contacts, electronic communications including fax transmissions and Email, or other written records, whether in paper or computer files, preserved via the use of any medium (e.g., paper documents, final notes, or word processors or computer discs, diskettes, hard drives, or network systems.) In addition, this request includes studies, analyses, work papers, internal or external communications of any sort, testimony, press releases, reports, diagrams and drawings, memoranda of the like and photographs in print or digitally format concerning, recording or in any way related to:

- 1) For the timeframe of January 1, 2012 to date, all communications to and from the Rockville, Maryland headquarters of the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), the Office of the Commission, the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, the Office of Nuclear Reactor Research, the Office of International Programs and the Office of General Counsel relating to the discovery and findings of cracking in Belgium's Doel 3 and Tihange 2 nuclear power plant Reactor Pressure Vessels manufactured by the Dutch corporation Rotterdamsche Droogdok Maatschappij (RDM);**

- 2) For the timeframe of January 1, 2012 to date, all communications to and from the Rockville, Maryland headquarters of the NRC, the Office of the Commission, the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, the Office of Nuclear Reactor Research, the Office of International Programs, the Office of General Counsel and NRC Regional Offices 1, 2, 3 and 4 relating to the implications, analyses, inspections, and any other activities for U.S. reactors with Reactor Pressure Vessels manufactured by RDM including Catawba Unit 1, McGuire Unit 2, North Anna Units 1 and 2, Quad Cities Unit 2, Sequoyah Units 1 and 2, Surry Units 1 and 2 and Watts Bar Unit 1;**

Pursuant to this request, please provide all documents and communications prepared or utilized by, in the possession of, or routed through the NRC related to items 1 through 2.

For any portion of the request that you deem appropriate to deny, Beyond Nuclear requests that you describe the information that is denied, identify the exception to the FOIA on which you rely, and explain how that exception applies to the withheld information.

Pursuant to federal regulations at 10 CFR 9.41, Beyond Nuclear requests that any searching and copying fees incurred as a result of this search be waived, and provides the following information in response to the eight criteria listed in Section 9.41(b):

1) Purpose of request:

The purpose of the request is to gather information on the adequacy of NRC oversight of reactor safety margins. The requested information is currently not publicly available through the agency's public document room.

2) Extent to which Beyond Nuclear will extract and analyze the substantive content of the records:

Beyond Nuclear is qualified to make use of the requested information. Its staff has demonstrated the ability to interpret information and communicate that information in a form comprehensible to the general public. Beyond Nuclear is quoted in the media and has been cited as a reliable source of information on NRC oversight of reactor safety margins in electronic and print media including newspapers such Washington Post, New York Times and the Los Angeles Times. Beyond Nuclear is recognized and utilized as a reliable source of information in the public interest by broadcast media of television and radio.

Beyond Nuclear has a working relationship with nuclear engineers, physicists, and other professionals and experts who contribute to the full understanding of NRC oversight of reactor safety margins. .

3) Nature of the specific activity or research in which the records will be used and Beyond Nuclear qualifications to utilize the information for the intended use in such a way that it will contribute to public understanding:

Beyond Nuclear seeks the requested information solely to contribute to and help shape the public policy debate on NRC oversight of reactor safety margins. Beyond Nuclear intends to use the information in order to advance the public understanding of the adequacy of NRC oversight of reactor safety margins.

4) Likely impact on the public understanding of the subject as compared to the level of understanding of the subject prior to disclosure:

With the provision of greater transparency, the public understanding of the issues regarding NRC oversight of reactor safety margins will be enhanced by the contribution of this information.

5) Size and nature of the public to whose understanding a contribution will be made:

Beyond Nuclear has a membership of more than 19,000 who periodically receive communications from Beyond Nuclear. Beyond Nuclear provides resource material to electronic and print media outlets with very broad outreach to a constituency and the interested public. Additionally, Beyond Nuclear maintains a web site at [www.beyondnuclear.org] and social media sites where postings on this issue will be made available.

6) Means of distribution of the requested information:

Beyond Nuclear will use its publications and media contacts in both electronic and print media outlets to provide very broad outreach to the public on this issue. Beyond Nuclear will also share information with other interested parties concerned about NRC oversight of reactor safety margins. Additionally, Beyond Nuclear will post information on its web site and its social media sites.

7) Whether free access to information will be provided:

Beyond Nuclear will provide the information without charge to all members of the public. Information from the FOIA requested will be prepared for printed material and electronically posted on the web site for downloading free of charge. Beyond Nuclear will provide a copy of information to all interested public without charge.

8) No commercial interest by Beyond Nuclear or any other party:

Beyond Nuclear has no commercial interest in obtaining the requested information. This information is provided to all public requests without charge. The sole interest of Beyond Nuclear is to promote a policy debate on NRC oversight of reactor safety margins.

Sincerely,
Paul Gunter, Director
Reactor Oversight Project