

SECYLettersCEm Resource

From: Donna Knipp [knipp.donna@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 02, 2013 10:34 AM
To: NRCExecSec Resource
Subject: Vote "Yes" on filtered vents for radiation -- protect citizens

Dear Secretary Annette Vietti-Cook:

I urge you and the Commissioners of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, to affirm the NRC staff's post-Fukushima recommendation to require engineered radiation filters on hardened containment vents at all 31 GE Mark I and Mark II nuclear reactors in the U.S. The health and welfare of New England residents who would be affected by catastrophic releases from Vermont Yankee or Pilgrim nuclear generating stations (as well as the public at 29 other Mark I and Mark II units) are more important than any costs associated with the overdue upgrades to these inherently inadequate and failure prone reactor containment systems.

Background:

* In 1989, the NRC requested that all Mark I BWR (Boiling Water Reactors) owners voluntarily install hardened containment vents. The same retrofit installed on Fukushima Dai-Ichi dramatically failed on units 1, 2 and 3 in March 2011; In March 2012, the NRC ordered all Mark I and II BWR owners to upgrade these hardened containment vents - without consideration of a severe reactor accident advancing to reactor core damage.

In the event of core damage, the public is not adequately protected by these hardened containment vents lacking filters. The NRC will not be serving the American public health and safety well if it takes a decade or more to haggle and negotiate with industry. The NRC must get it right now and issue Orders for prompt enforced industry action to install filtered containment vents. If justice delayed is justice denied, filters delayed is public safety denied.

Sincerely,

Donna Knipp, Manhattan

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We cannot live long or well without a functioning biosphere, and so it is worth everything we have.

-- Joseph Guth

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