

Joosten, Sandy

From: r johnson <r66nj@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, June 03, 2013 5:43 PM
To: CHAIRMAN Resource
Subject: Your meeting here next week and the collusion with Edison

Dr. Allison Macfarlane
Chair, NRC
Dear Dr. Macfarlane:

One criticism of the NRC and the nuclear industry which goes back a half century is that they treat public safety as a public relations issue. That is what happened in Japan, and the result was a major disaster. The Nuclear Accident Independent Investigation Commission concluded:

"The TEPCO Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant accident was the result of collusion between the government, the regulators, and TEPCO."

This is exactly what the NRC is now doing with San Onofre, repeating the mistakes of Fukushima instead of learning from them. Next week you have scheduled a secret meeting here in San Juan Capistrano. The public is excluded, webcasts are not allowed, and the media are not invited. You have invited only small groups, mostly politicians and government officials, to meet privately behind closed doors with the NRC and Edison. True, there is one small group of heads of local groups, but that smacks of tokenism. It also conveniently isolates those who oppose a startup.

This approach to decision making reflects poorly on the NRC. It makes it clear that the NRC prefers decision making with secret back room meetings where the regulators and the utility can bypass the public and meet off record with influentials and government officials. What also reflects poorly on the NRC is that it has never had a meeting here to deal with a long list of safety issues. How can you claim that you are protecting people and the environment when you refuse to talk about anything except steam generator tube design? When will you hold meetings with seismic experts? Terrorism experts? Epidemiologists and cancer specialists? Evacuation specialists? The message you clearly convey is that you are mostly interested in promoting nuclear power no matter how unsafe the plant.

It is well-known that you have a perfect record with the nuclear industry you are supposed to be regulating: you have never closed a nuclear power plant for safety reasons. In San Onofre you have a plant with a long history of safety violations, mechanical breakdowns, the number one target of terrorists, a plant in a highly populated zone where evacuation is not possible, and plant located on an active fault zone (which would not be allowed in Japan but apparently you consider this safe in the United States).

If there was ever a plant that needed to be shut down, this is it. If the NRC relicenses this plant, it would prove that the NRC has completely lost its way and is a failure as a regulatory agency. You already granted San Onofre a pass when you quietly relicensed them in 2000 without any scrutiny. Edison has now been caught lying to the public and lying to the NRC. How can you proceed with business as usual?

Cancel the meeting next week, and turn down the request for startup. The collusion with Edison is blatant. The disregard for public safety is obvious. Giving another pass to Edison would mean the end of the NRC as a viable agency. The NRC is following the same path that led to the abolition of the Atomic Energy Commission.

Sincerely,

Roger Johnson, PhD
Professor Emeritus
San Clemente, CA
June 3, 2013