

We The People, Inc.
of the United States
Stop Chernobyl Here

March 26, 1990

The Honorable Kenneth Carr
Chairman
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Carr:

On March 21, 1990 at 5:20 p. m. we notified Leo Norton of the Inspector General's office that we were informed that there were unsafe conditions at the Seabrook power plant. These specific concerns involved steam valves and electrical problems. Mr. Norton told me that he would contact Region I and have them look into it. On March 22nd, the news media reported that a backup power supply in the system controlling fuel rods at Seabrook Station failed and that the plant was shut down for 5 1/2 hours before being turned back on later that day.

We The People is not surprised that such operating failures have begun to occur so early in the plants startup process, like they occurred June 22, 1989, but we are none the less alarmed and concerned for the well being of nearby communities who must be wondering now about the wisdom of NRC's decision to grant Seabrook it's full power license earlier this month. We feel that the NRC must let the public know that it is absolutely on top of any such occurrence as yesterday's failure and absolutely professional and forthright in it's oversight responsibilities.

We therefore suggest the following:

1. That the NRC immediately impound and remove to a safe location off-site of Seabrook the failed backup power supply system and any other parts, components and assemblies that may lead to or from that power supply.
2. That there be an independent and witnessed examination of the failed system to determine the exact cause of failure.
3. That the NRC cross check all of the parts, components, assemblies etc. of this system and associated equipment with file documents as to determine if any of this equipment could

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be part of the counterfeit substandard materials that We The People brought to light in 1987 which forced the NRC later to confirm in their own reports that these bogus parts did exist in 59 plants across the U.S. including Seabrook. This would inform the public as to whether any match can be made between such reports or documents and the failed system.

4. That the NRC immediately institute a policy of impounding, performing postmortems, cross checking and informing the public in a similar way of any and all future components, assemblies, parts, and systems etc. which may fail at Seabrook or at any other US nuclear plant.

5. Finally, we recommend that your findings not only be reported in the NRC's and utilities official report, but that you start developing a policy whereby the media is notified so the people living in the surrounding communities can be provided with this very troubling information. I ask that you provide our group, We The People, with a copy of these notices.

To us, such steps make good sense not only from safety operations and public relations standpoint but also as a forensic practice, where sabotage or any other wrongdoing may occur now or in the future.

You are well aware that I have very little confidence in some past commission officials of the NRC to protect the safety of the American people. The present Commission of which you chair, has done very little to change that impression especially since you insisted on licensing Seabrook, even though there was and still is an ongoing investigation being conducted not only by Congress but by the Inspector General of the United States pertaining to safety issues at that plant.

I hope that you will start showing some respect for the people that you work for, the American public, by accepting and implementing our suggestions.

Sincerely,

Stephen B. Comley
Stephen B. Comley
Executive Director

cc: Rep. Peter H. Kostmayer
Inspector General David Williams
Senator Edward Kennedy