

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

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ACTION OFFICE: SECY

AUTHOR: Teresa Clark
AFFILIATION: NJ
ADDRESSEE: CHRM Dale Klein
SUBJECT: Concerns enforce safety standards

ACTION: Appropriate
DISTRIBUTION:

LETTER DATE: 11/08/2007
ACKNOWLEDGED No
SPECIAL HANDLING: Serve as ex parte communication on Oyster Creek Docket
NOTES: E-mail campaign to the Chairman 100 plus e-mails received

FILE LOCATION: ADAMS

DATE DUE: **DATE SIGNED:**

From: Teresa Clark <clarkteresa@gmail.com>
To: <chairman@nrc.gov>
Date: Thu, Nov 8, 2007 6:28 PM
Subject: Enforce Safety Standards

Dear Dr. Klein

I am deeply concerned about recent events at the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station in Lacey Township, New Jersey. As you know, there are serious safety risks that are a part of operating any nuclear plant, and having an effective regulatory body to ensure that these risks are minimized is, therefore, of the utmost importance.

Unfortunately, it does not appear that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is acting in that regulatory capacity, leaving public health and safety in jeopardy. One of the most troubling examples of this is the testimony by NRC staff member Dr. Mark Hartzman at a September 24-25, 2007, hearing before the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board. Dr. Hartzman stated that while the corrosion of Oyster Creek's containment structure could be considered a deviation from the American Society of Mechanical Engineers' (ASME) code safety factor, it is not necessary that Oyster Creek meet this, or any other, standard in order to be considered safe. (Please see Hearing Transcript 482: 12-17; 156: 12-158:2; and 161: 21-24.) By contrast, AmerGen, the company that operates the Oyster Creek plant, testified that, "Compliance with the ASME code is the industry standard."

It seems, then, that far from serving as an industry watchdog and acting in the public interest, the NRC is actually less concerned with implementing appropriate safety measures than the industry itself, which in turn is not sufficiently concerned to cease operations at a plant where it is unclear if safety standards are being met. If this state of affairs is allowed to continue, it will no longer be a matter of if a major nuclear accident will occur in the United States, but when.

I urge you in the strongest possible terms to instruct your staff that, in the interest of public health and safety, ASME codes are to be strictly enforced at Oyster Creek and all other operating nuclear plants in the United States. I further urge you to take a hard look at your organization as a whole, assess the efficacy of its practices, and implement measures to reform those practices so that the American public can again feel confident that the risks associated with nuclear power are being appropriately managed and minimized.

Sincerely,

Teresa Clark
502 10th Ave.
Belmar, NJ 07719

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Subject: Enforce Safety Standards
Creation Date Thu, Nov 8, 2007 6:27 PM
From: Teresa Clark <clarkteresa@gmail.com>
Created By: clarkteresa@gmail.com

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