June 5, 2014

Dear NRC Chairman
Allison M. Macfarlane:

Thank you for meeting with us today to discuss our common goal: protecting our country from the risks inherent with producing electricity via nuclear fission.

As you have heard, we have many concerns about specific areas of risk identified at the Palisades Nuclear Power Plant. We are concerned that financial profitability is achieved at the expense of improved safety and reliability. We are equally concerned about the lack of adequate funding to decommission Palisades, and the risk that Entergy, as a Limited Liability Corporation, could simply go out of business and walk away from the radioactively contaminated Palisades site and its high-level radioactive wastes.

Unfortunately, we cannot predict how a given nuclear power plant will fail. Yet, we know each plant is a highly complex system relying on human judgment. History has shown us that plants do fail, and that they can fail in large ways. As our nuclear fleet ages, the risk of a nuclear disaster on U.S. soil grows higher due to age related failures. Now is the time when we need to apply extra vigilance to ensure corners are not cut that could lead to unacceptable results for countless generations to come.

The groups in this room stand ready to support you and your work at the NRC to oversee
A. the swift, safe decommissioning of our current nuclear fleet,
B. the safe-keeping of our nuclear “wastes” in the safest ways we know,
C. and the clean-up of our mining and processing sites.

Let’s work together to retire the current generation of nuclear plants before one fails in a spectacular and irreversible way.

We imagine that we might help you in the following ways:
1. We can regularly meet with the NRC, Power Plant Owners, Public Service Commissions, etc. to represent the voice of our community on issues of public health and safety and thus balance this voice against the voice of financial profit.
2. We can provide local volunteer resources to help coordinate community and political action in support of making nuclear plants safer until they are fully decommissioned.
3. We can provide data on viable (real, economically viable), clean, less risky alternatives to electricity produced via nuclear fission (conservation, efficiency, Wind, Solar PV, energy storage, etc.).
4. We can help expedite the planning and help coordinate the transition to cleaner, less risky electricity production in our communities.

We believe “Adequate Safety” is an obsolete policy of the NRC that needs to be replaced by one of “Uncompromised Safety”. Chernobyl and Fukushima, should teach us how costly a single nuclear disaster can be. Our planet is more precious than short-term financial profit.

Finally, how can we help you make our nuclear plants safer?

Sincerely,
Kraig D. Schultz
Secretary of Michigan Safe Energy Future (MSEF)
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