Media Advisory

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Concerned residents, environmental groups meeting with NRC Chairman
Safety & Security Risks at Palisades & Cook
atomic reactors to be discussed

Who: Concerned local residents, and representatives from Beyond Nuclear, Coalition for a Nuclear-Free Great Lakes, Don't Waste Michigan, Michigan Safe Energy Future (both Kalamazoo and South Haven Chapters), and Sierra Club Michigan Chapter.

What: Meeting with U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Chairman Allison Macfarlane, and her staff, including NRC Region 3 (Midwest) Administrator Cynthia Pederson.*

Where: Benton Harbor, Michigan, equidistant (about 15 miles to each) between the two atomic reactors at American Electric Power’s Donald C. Cook nuclear power plant to the south in Bridgman, MI, and the Entergy Palisades atomic reactor to the north in Covert, MI, both on the Lake Michigan shoreline.

When: Thursday afternoon, June 5, 2014.

Why: Watchdogs on southwest MI’s atomic reactors will raise a number of concerns and grievances concerning broken promises about safety repairs (including aging- and design-related risks); safety culture collapse, including on the security guard force; ever mounting radioactive waste concerns; and leaks, as well as intentional releases, of hazardous substances into the air, soil, groundwater, and Lake Michigan (radioactivity, toxic chemicals, and most recently, oil). Concerns will be raised that NRC is prioritizing nuclear utility profits over public safety. The coalition will urge that the dirty, dangerous, and expensive atomic reactors be permanently shutdown, and NRC oversee a safe decommissioning of the sites (dismantlement, clean up of radioactive contamination, and safeguarding of high-level radioactive wastes in Hardened On-Site Storage).
A press release will be published by the environmental coalition immediately following the meeting with NRC Chairman Macfarlane. Spokespeople for the coalition can be contacted at any point at the phone numbers listed above.

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*(This is the fourth visit to Palisades by an NRC Commissioner – and the second visit by an NRC Chairman – in just two years, more than any other atomic reactor in the country. The previous visits have included: May 25, 2012, NRC Chairman Greg Jaczko; March 25, 2013, NRC Commissioner William Magwood IV; and May 13, 2013, NRC Commissioner Kristine Svinicki. Jaczko, Magwood, and now Macfarlane have met with local concerned residents and environmental group representatives, as part of their tours of Palisades.)