Dr. Macfarlane,

I acknowledge your service to our country and thank you for your work on expediting the removal of fuel from on-site fuel pools.

The practice of the industry to continue to store irradiated spent fuel as tightly packed as possible for as long as possible has become a pet peeve of mine.

Ever since I learned of this practice from an Arnie Gunderson video, where each reactor is saving perhaps $100 million by not transferring to dry cask, and then waiting as long as possible probably till the reactor shuts down so they can hopefully somehow pass the cost onto the taxpayer, I have become increasingly upset as I learn of the dangers of fuel pool fires.

Also upsetting, the NRC under its regulations can and will allow for utilities to keep irradiated nuclear fuel in storage pools for as long as 60 years post reactor shutdown. This brings up the nuclear industries willingness to dump the cleanup of the deadliest toxins known to man on future generations which is in my opinion beyond immoral.

On average across the country all fuel pools are holding 75% of spent fuel on-site, anywhere from 5 to 8 reactor cores each pool containing many hundreds of Hiroshima bombs of ungodly poisons.

Almost nobody from the general public knows of this or understands how nuclear utilities are so bent on saving money at the expense of safety. It also upsets me that the NRC is not more informative to the public about these dreadfully serious dangers that can affect all of us.

At the Palisades nuclear plant the fuel pool was filled up in 1993 and ever since then spent fuel has been put into dry casks only enough to keep the plant running.

In 2005 a transfer cask weighing over 100 tons was almost dropped in the pool at Palisades because of inexperience crane operators, that incident could have caused a drain down and a Chernobyl on steroids, such an event would have catastrophic global implications.

What I fear is that even at a one reactor site like Palisades you could have two accidents because a fuel pool fire could cause a reactor meltdown, or a reactor meltdown could cause a fuel pool fire.

Chernobyl and Fukushima are ongoing accidents that have and will continue to ruin the lives of millions of people for generations.

The reactor unit number three explosion at Fukushima which had global implications is thought by many to have involved a fuel pool event.
In light of that catastrophic event I think that having tightly pack fuel pools in every reactor site in America especially old and dangerous reactors like Palisades with some safety systems out of date, or the 32 boiling water reactors whose fuel pools are above the ground is nothing short of a death wish for our country.

Also after shutting down the reactor site, now the operators want to do away with the emergency preparedness and evacuation requirements while the fuel pools are still full of spent fuel, even to the point of dismissing the security guard force.

Fuel pools were never required to have much if any emergency safety equipment so if there is a power outage or the nightwatchman doesn’t see the fuel pool is draining or boiling we could be in for serious problem. Half measures just maintaining water level may not be enough if there is not a backup for lost power on the cooling water circulation pumps.

People have observed that I have a lot of drive, that I am passionate about nuclear issues. My passion is born of the understanding of the horrors of Chernobyl and the realization that such an event is one mechanical failure, operator error, earthquake, terrorist attack, electromagnetic pulse or solar flare away.

John Brenneman- MSEF, and shutdown Palisades campaign.