December 2, 2014

Statement by Gail Snyder, President, Nuclear Energy Information Service of IL, and intervenor against Palisades’ License Amendment Request:

When the brakes on your car have been unchecked for a long time you need someone to take the wheels off and do an “analytic” inspection of the brake pads to see if they will last and that the car is safe to drive. You do not want someone to do a mathematical “probability” on their computer of if your breaks will last and for how long. This is what Entergy is asking for with Palisades. Instead of an analysis of the real materials, which they could do, they want to play around with computer models to calculate a probability. Just take the tires off and look at the brake pads! Stop playing games with our lives.

Entergy could evaluate the actual materials of the reactor to see how degraded it is. The use of computer models and probabilities are for when you don’t have the actual materials to analyze but with Palisades they have the actual materials so why aren’t they analyzing them and why is the NRC letting them get away with it? Why is the NRC letting the public be put at risk for what appears to be an experiment in just how far they can push this type of reactor?

Palisades is dangerous and Entergy knows it why else would they want to conceal reality by not analyzing the actual reactor materials? Entergy would rather obscure the facts through the manipulation of numbers in a computer.

The people that live, vacation and own businesses and properties in the region should know ahead of time who is going to be held accountable at the NRC and Entergy if the computer modeling and probability calculations are wrong. Will Entergy, a limited liability corporation, or the NRC a government agency going to pay us all for our properties if they are contaminated? What about people’s health? What about community, how do you put a value on that?

What Entergy is avoiding is finding out just how worn out the actual reactor lid is. If that reactor lid is so worn out that it is going to crack in an emergency we need to know. We don’t need Entergy to dance around it saying that their computer probability won’t increase a malfunction or the consequences of an accident. We need them to DECREASE the likelihood of a malfunction and the consequences of an accident by looking at the actual reactor materials, which they can do but they are trying to avoid.

Understanding that Palisades Nuclear Power Facility is over 30 years old and has the most embrittled reactor lid in the country putting it at risk of cracking along with the NRC not doing everything possible to make sure it is safe has ruined the enjoyment I used to get from going to my vacation property in Michigan which is 15 miles downwind of Palisades. I used to enjoy going to South Haven as well but now knowing what I do, I avoid it. South Haven is right next to Palisades and I don’t want to be there if an accident happens at Palisades. (continued)
Palisades will shut down some day and the community and workers need to start planning for it. Shutting down Palisades will have a significant impact to the community that surrounds it. It may shut down when the license eventually expires, when its operator decides it is no longer profitable or after a significant accident. The community can survive if Palisades shuts down before an accident but it probably won’t survive if Palisades has a nuclear accident. A nuclear accident is not inevitable and can be avoided but Entergy and the NRC continue to put the community at risk.