



NEWS RELEASE

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Calvert Cliffs Emergency Drill Review Draws Sharp Public Criticism

Annapolis, MD— A coalition of citizens and public interest groups voiced their concerns and criticisms to federal emergency planners in Prince Frederick, today. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) held a public meeting to evaluate a December 7th radiological response medical drill conducted at the Calvert Cliffs nuclear power station in Lusby, MD. The meeting was in follow-up to a previous exercise where the agencies failed to notify the public and media of the emergency exercise evaluation meeting.

At the same time, the Chesapeake Safe Energy Coalition publicly released a letter from several prominent Congressmen expressing dismay over NRC and FEMA's failure to implement protective provisions in the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness Act. The federal law, passed in 2002, required the agencies to implement and distribute thyroid radiation protection pills for all men, women and children out to 20 miles from all nuclear power plants. The November 2007 letter was signed by Congressmen John Dingell (D-MI), Edward Markey (D-MA), Bart Stupak (D-MI) and Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ).

"These agencies are breaking the law while patting themselves on the back for a supposed job well done," said Paul Gunter, Director of the Reactor Oversight Project for the Takoma Park, MD-based Beyond Nuclear. "In reality, they are endangering the public and especially children by refusing to stockpile and distribute potassium iodide as required by the 2002 law," Gunter said.

Public concern continues to focus on the inadequacy of emergency preparedness around the Lusby, MD nuclear power station where UniStar Nuclear Energy (France's EDF and Constellation Energy) is preparing an application to construct an additional nuclear reactor.

"These emergency drills unrealistically leave out key factors like how many first responders are going to think first about their families," said Allison Fisher of the Washington DC-based Public Citizen Energy Program. "The response to a meltdown will be more like what happened at

Three Mile Island where many of the emergency room doctors and nurses spontaneously evacuated with their families,” said Fisher.

“If it happens, everybody is going to try to get out at the same time and that spells chaos,” said Frank Fox, a Mechanicsville, MD resident. “The plan relies on the cooperation of whole communities without recognition of what real human behavior is likely to be,” said Fox.

“There are a lot of geographic bottlenecks that will naturally complicate and slow even the most orderly of evacuations,” said Robert Boxwell, a Lusby, MD resident with the Sierra Club. “It just doesn’t make sense that NRC and FEMA would deny us the protection of our thyroids from radiation while we are stuck in traffic jams,” said Boxwell.