

HIGHLIGHTS OF NATIONAL INTERVENORS TESTIMONY
AEC URANIUM FUEL CYCLE HEARINGS, FEBRUARY 1, 2, 1973

I. DR. EDWARD P. RADFORD

"... the whole (nuclear) process has been very much oversold."

"It is unlikely that before the year 2010 we will have a significant, commercial breeder reactor program available."

"By and large, all of the radiation doses that are being expressed for the public are calculated doses."

"...the increased lung cancer risk to miners (of uranium) will be approximately 250% above the other workers."

"The present standards for exposure of miners in underground mines to Radon daughters is too high."

"At least a small percentage of the workers in the (Humbolt Bay) plant are receiving between 1 and 5 rem per year."

"Releases of radioactivity in effluents of some nuclear power plants are going up rather rapidly."

"Dresden I...when operated at 90% capacity will give a radiation dose a mile or a mile and a half away in populated areas of about 75 millirems per year clearly not meeting ALAP standards."

"No action whatever is being taken to retrofit the old Dresden I so it will meet new effluent standards."

"What has happened is that the choice was made (to site the Midwest Fuel Reprocessing Plant half a mile from the Dresden reactors) as much because of convenience as anything else, that is, since the citizens in the vicinity of the plant had already accepted the nuclear era, then 'give them some more'."

"...skin doses from the Krypton releases at the Barnwell plant ... will be on the order of 200 millirems per year at about a mile or a mile and a half."

II. DR. HENRY KENDALL

- A. The assurances "...that the Emergency Core Cooling System will work 999 times out of 1,000 have no factual basis."

The Consequences of a loss of coolant accident at a nuclear power plant can be a catastrophe of unprecedented size.

The probability of such an accident is not "very remote" but is "enormous".

- B. The situation with respect to safe transport of nuclear materials is "unpalatable".

The number and size of thefts of nuclear materials can be expected to grow with the industry.

The security risk and risk to world peace posed by nuclear hijacking "...is a serious potential threat."

"The aggravation of this situation when and if the breeders come in is very great."

- C. The problem of waste storage and impact must be viewed in light of the record to date.

"It is a new kind of risk-benefit calculation which allows us to gain the benefits now and hand the risks to people who are yet unborn."

III. ANTHONY Z. ROISMAN

"It is quite possible that this is the beginning of the end of the further development of fission nuclear power in this country."

"I think that the past actions of the AEC, the nuclear industry and the utilities have to a large extent created a potential for public reaction against nuclear power which will end the fission nuclear program."

"Dr. Ralph Lapp has pointed out that if we should have the incredible nuclear accident, namely an emergency core cooling system failure following a loss-of-coolant accident, it is quite possible that the public's reaction to that event would be a moratorium on nuclear power for a hundred years."

"You've hidden the facts from us so frequently that we do not believe you when you tell us that this generation and the generations to come will be safe forever from something that we need not ever face if we simply do not create it in the first place."

"... one possible reason for holding this hearing at this time was in order to have before the court, when the real issue was presented (the failure of the Commission to treat the environmental fuel cycle in individual licensing proceedings), something that will make the Commission look like it's moving at better than a funereal rate and that it is not making a complete mockery of the National Environmental Policy Act. In that context what this hearing represents is a form of ECCS - 'Emergency Court Cooling System'."

"In order to cope with the inability of the staff to now analyze the problem of fuel densification the staff is recommending that in Point Beach Unit #2 (close to a thousand mw reactor) there be full core replacement each year."

"I need not stress to all of you the significance of the terminology 'credible' and 'incredible'. It represents an extremely important line which once drawn distinguishes between those things against which plants are designed redundantly to cope and those things against which no designs exist."

"In our opinion the alternatives suggested in the Commission's notice of hearing do not meet the objectives of the National Environmental Policy Act."

"The biggest single problem is that we are discussing the question of the environmental impact of the nuclear fuel cycle in the context of the continuing licensing of the plants which produce the problem. We are not having an opportunity to consider whether or not these plants should ever begin to operate at all."

"...the issue that the Commission refuses to face up to is: can you continue to produce the wastes, can you continue to produce the reprocessing plants can you continue to do the mining without asking the question of whether or not in the first place we should be pursuing this course of action."

"We suggest that ... the Commission convene a full generic hearing on the question of the nuclear fuel cycle which is subject to full adjudicatory rights...and that once it produces an environmental impact statement and board findings, it should be subject to periodic updating."