

Subject: Take Action: Demand permanent shutdown of GE Mark I reactors
From: Nuclear Information and Resource Service <nirsnet@nirs.org>
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Nuclear Information and Resource Service



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TAKE ACTION! JOIN US IN DEMANDING PERMANENT SHUTDOWN OF ALL 23 GE MARK I REACTORS IN U.S.

March 19, 2011

Dear Friends,

There are 23 nuclear reactors currently operating in the United States using the same General Electric Mark I design as those that have failed so catastrophically at Fukushima.

The flaws in this design are fundamental, cannot be fixed, and have been documented for 40 years now. They have led to containment building explosions at three of the Fukushima reactors, the exposure of irradiated fuel pools to the environment and enormous radiation releases.

It is time to close them, permanently. Please take a moment to tell that to President Obama, your Congressmembers, and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). [You can do that with one letter here.](#)

[A list of the GE Mark I reactors can be found here.](#) You will also see that 18 of these 23 aging reactors already have been approved for license extension by the NRC. Rather than putting Americans into peril for 20 more years, the renewals must be rescinded and the reactors closed now.

[An updated explanation of the fundamental flaws in the Mark I design is here.](#) The explanation includes links to the original 1971-72 Atomic Energy Commission memos on the design's flaws and recommendation that the design be discontinued in the U.S. Astonishingly, this recommendation

was agreed to in concept, but denied because it "could well mean the end of nuclear power..."

UPDATES

We are continuing to provide updates on the situation in Japan to the best of our ability. New information and documents are posted on the [nuclear crisis in Japan page here](#). New information today includes radiation readings in nearby towns from March 13 through March 18.

Thanks to a generous donor, we are shipping radiation monitoring systems to our colleagues in Japan for immediate independent monitoring. We hope to have real-time monitoring publicly-available and online by the end of the week.

And it is thanks to people like you--whose support enables us to pay the rent, phone bills, internet, etc. who make it possible for us to seek dedicated grants like that. Your support this week has also made it possible for us to put an ad on Altnet urging people to write Congress for an end to taxpayer support for new nuclear power.

We believe this is the time: we can end use of our tax dollars for nuclear power. If you haven't sent your letters in yet, [please do so now](#). And please keep spreading the word about this important action. More than 30,000 letters have gone in so far--let's get to 50,000 this week.

We can do that if we can expand this campaign and expand our outreach. Thank you to everyone who has contributed this week. Your support has been crucial. If you haven't yet, [please contribute here](#), or mail your check to NIRS, 6930 Carroll Avenue, #340, Takoma Park, MD 20912. Reminder: all contributions are tax-deductible.

Note, a few people have reported problems using the action page on nuclear subsidies. This is usually caused by a busy server, but if you have problems, we have the same action up on [change.org](#) and [you can send your letters using that site here](#).

UPCOMING ACTIONS

We want to be clear that the disaster in Japan has exposed the failings and lies of the nuclear power industry in a way that exceeds even the aftermath of Chernobyl.

The actions we are taking today on GE Mark I reactors, and our continuing work to stop nuclear subsidies, are just the beginning. We're working to develop a new platform we can all embrace, one that will bring us closer and faster to a nuclear-free, carbon-free energy future.

To that end, we held one grassroots "listening" call last Monday. We are holding another one this Monday, March 21 at 4 pm eastern time to hear your thoughts on what this platform should be, and also to hear your thoughts about the idea of new actions across the country in April--what form can/should they take? what are your capabilities? what are your needs? Again, this is a "listening" call: we will listen to your ideas and we ask all of you to listen respectfully to each other. The call-in number is 218-237-3840; the code is 110336#.

We will be holding a grassroots strategy call to further develop your ideas and ours (promised last

week, sorry, events overtook us) on Tuesday at 2 pm eastern. If you would like to participate in this call, please e-mail us at nirsnet@nirs.org with your name, organization (if any) and location. If you already have e-mailed us about this strategy call, you're on our list and don't need to send another.

Thanks for all you do,

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NIRS on Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Nuclear-Information-and-Resource-Service/26490791479?sk=wall&filter=12>

<http://www.facebook.com/nonukesnirs>

<http://www.causes.com/causes/49098-no-nukes-nuclear-information-and-resource-service>

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