

September 29, 2009

Honorable Chairman Greg Jaczko
Commissioner Dale Klein
Commissioner Kristine Svinicki
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Chairman Jaczko and Commissioners:

We, signed below, representing 57 organizations, offer you our nomination of Arnold Gundersen to serve on the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS).

It is exceptionally rare for an individual to have the education, training, experience and expertise necessary to serve the Commission via the ACRS, while also having won not only the trust, but the admiration of some of the Commission's most ardent critics and Watch Dogs. As a former Senior Vice President of Nuclear Energy Services, Mr. Gundersen has invested a large portion of his life to the wellbeing of the nuclear industry. After Mr. Gundersen brought safety concerns to the NRC, former Chairman Selin said in congressional testimony to Senator John Glenn: "It is true...everything Mr. Gundersen said was absolutely right; he performed quite a service."

It bears note that Mr. Gundersen has served as an expert witness on both proposed new COL applications and also the current fleet, offering analysis that has, in many cases, contributed significantly over and above the information that would have been available without his participation. A very recent example of this is expert testimony he offered to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission about the potential for through-wall penetration of the containment liner at Beaver Valley. Through a declaration and multiple exhibits Mr. Gundersen was able to provide meaningful advice on appropriate inspection techniques.

Appointment of Arnie Gundersen to the ACRS at this pivotal time in the history of nuclear energy makes sense: he has had a pivotal personal journey that at the same time demonstrates unwavering commitment to nuclear safety, technical expertise, and public protection – the pillars of the ACRS mandate.

The Commission has the opportunity to substantially increase the credibility of your body in our eyes with the appointment of Mr. Gundersen to the ACRS.

Sincerely,

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Takoma Park, MD

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Ken Bossong
Executive Director
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