

24 May 2023

The Honorable Joseph Biden
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The undersigned organizations from across the Nation write to you with grave concerns regarding security at U.S. nuclear power plants.

For a year now Ukraine and the world have lived anxiously with the threat of nuclear disaster, not only from threats of nuclear weapons use, but also from deliberate attacks on and deteriorating conditions at Ukraine's nuclear power stations such as the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant. We commend and wholeheartedly support your Administration's much needed efforts to make nuclear plants in the Ukraine war zone more secure in the face of daunting political and military challenges. This work protects not only Ukraine but the entire Planet.

Our concern is that the security of U.S. nuclear power plants does not seem to be receiving a commensurate amount of attention, neither from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), nor the Administration. Worse, your Administration is also seeking to expand the nuclear industry in dangerous ways that compound nuclear plant security threats.

The \$35 million the Administration allocated last year to assist Ukraine with its nuclear plant security is a justified federal expenditure. But **nuclear plant security MUST begin at home**. The US government must learn the lesson of Zaporizhzhia -- that attacks on nuclear facilities and other external dangers they face are credible threats and could happen here -- and prioritize domestic US nuclear plant security accordingly. Meanwhile:

- The 92 operating reactors and 19 reactors in various stages of decommissioning in the US are vulnerable to sabotage, terrorism, cyberattack, dam breaches, and other threats of a deliberate nature.
- Shipments of spent nuclear fuel to consolidated interim storage facilities (CISFs) are similarly vulnerable.
- NRC nuclear plant security policy is reactive rather than proactive, leaving it up to licensees. The NRC also takes a 'hands-off' approach to securing spent nuclear fuel.
- Independent analysis shows this approach has failed, and that as a result, US nuclear plants are not secure.

A more [detailed description and documentation](#) of these concerns accompanies this letter. The recent catastrophic train derailment in East Palestine, Ohio, and the crash of two Boeing 737MAX jets demonstrate the real-world consequences of inadequate or capriciously enforced safety regulation and oversight. We can't add radiological releases from US nuclear plants to this list.

In light of these concerns, the undersigned organizations, representing hundreds of thousands of members nationwide, make the following requests:

- Since independent analysis shows the failings of current nuclear plant security arrangements, your administration should bridge the gap by framing and enforcing enhanced, mandatory security measures for existing nuclear facilities and spent nuclear fuel to make them less vulnerable to attack. Cost of implementation should be borne by licensees, not the taxpayers.

- [Hardened Onsite Storage \(HOSS\)](#) of spent nuclear fuel should be adopted immediately, and transfer of spent fuel from fuel pools to fortified dry storage that meets HOSS criteria should be expedited.
- US Department of Energy (DOE) should not take title to spent nuclear fuel at civilian reactors, which would trigger thousands of vulnerable shipments of spent nuclear fuel by truck, train, and barge across the country to proposed consolidated interim storage facilities (CISFs).
- Instead of transporting it to proposed CISFs, most spent nuclear fuel should be stored at reactor sites using [Hardened Onsite Storage \(HOSS\)](#). Transfer of spent fuel from fuel pools to fortified dry storage that meets HOSS criteria should be expedited.
- Proposed CISFs would be potential targets, and also need robust, mandatory security requirements.

Increasing reliance on nuclear power will only compound security threats. Federal funding should prioritize scaling up renewables, storage, efficiency, and transmission upgrades, so as to phase out nuclear power as quickly as possible.

Representatives of the undersigned groups and independent nuclear experts are prepared to meet with representatives of your Administration to air these concerns and discuss practical ways of resolving them. Improving nuclear plant security is a vital public safety issue, and deserves a substantive dialog between your Administration and public interest groups.

We thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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CC:

Secretary Jennifer Granholm, Dept. of Energy,
 Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, Dept. of Homeland Security
 Chairman Christopher T. Hanson, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS SIGN-ON LETTER FOR NUCLEAR SAFETY AND SECURITY

Organization	City	State
Anishinaabek Caucus of the Michigan Democratic Party	Ypsilanti	Michigan

Beyond Nuclear	Takoma Park	MD
Biodiversity First!	Los Osos	CA
Brooklyn For Peace	Brooklyn	NY
C.A.N. Coalition Against Nukes	Santa Barbara	CA
Cape Downwinders	South Harwich	MA
Carrie Dickerson Foundation	Tulsa	OK
Citizen Power, Inc.	Pittsburgh	Pennsylvania
Citizens Action Coalition of Indiana	Indianapolis	IN
Citizens Awareness Network	Charlemont	MA
Citizens for Alternatives to Radioactive Dumping	Albuquerque	NM
Citizens Resistance At Fermi Two (CRAFT)	Redford	Michigan
Citizens' Environmental Coalition	Cuddebackville	NY
Coalition for a Nuclear Free Great Lakes	Monroe	Michigan
Coalition of Community Organizations	Houston	TX
Coalition for Nuclear Safety	Del Mar	California
Columbus Free Press	Columbus	Ohio
Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety	Santa Fe	NM
Connecticut Coalition Against Millstone	Redding	Connecticut
Dallas Peace and Justice Center	Dallas	Texas
Don't Waste Arizona	Phoenix	Arizona
Don't Waste Michigan	Kalamazoo	Michigan
Ecological Options Network	Bolinas	CA
Energy Justice Network	Philadelphia	PA
eNRG - Energizing Renewable Growth in Holston Valley	Emory	Virginia
Environmentalists Against War	Berkeley	California
Fukushima Fallout Awareness Network	Walnut Creek	California
Georgia WAND	Atlanta	Georgia
Grassroots Environmental Education	Port Washington	New York
Green Party of Cuyahoga County	Cleveland	OH
Green Party of Ohio	Cleveland	Ohio
Green State Solutions	Iowa City	IA
Heart of America NW	Seattle	WA
Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Inc.	Beacon	NY
International Parliament Human Rights Ministry	Behampur	Odisha
Irthlingz Arts-Based Environmental Education	Eastsound	Washington
Jack & Belle Alpern Fund	Brooklyn	New York

Los Angeles Alliance for Survival	Santa Monica	CA
Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition	Detroit	Michigan
Michigan Safe Energy Future	Kalamazoo & Benton Harbor	Michigan
Mid-Missouri Peaceworks	Columbia	MO
Multicultural Alliance for a Safe Environment	Albuquerque	NM
National Decommissioning Working Group	Woodcliff Lake	New Jersey
National Nuclear Workers for Justice	McDermott	Ohio
Nevada Nuclear Waste Task Force	Las Vegas	NV
New Mexico & El Paso Interfaith Power and Light	Albuquerque	New Mexico
NM Social Justice & Equity Institute	Gallup, NM	nm
Northeastern New Mexicans United Against Nuclear Waste	LAS CRUCES	NM
Northern Michigan Environmental Action Council	Traverse City	MI
Northwest Ohio Peace Coalition	Toledo	Ohio
Nuclear Energy Information Service (NEIS)	Chicago	IL
Nuclear Free World Committee	Dallas	Texas
Nuclear Watch South	Atlanta	Georgia
Nukewatch	Luck	WI
Occupy Bergen County	Woodcliff Lake	New Jersey
Ohio Nuclear Free Network	Toledo	Ohio
Peace Action Maine	Portland	Maine
Peace Action Wisconsin	Milwaukee	WI
Physicians for Social Responsibility - Chesapeake	Baltimore	Maryland
Physicians for Social Responsibility - Kansas City	Kansas City	Kansas
Physicians for Social Responsibility - San Francisco Bay	San Francisco	CA
Physicians for Social Responsibility Wisconsin	Madison	WI
Physicians for Social Responsibility-Los Angeles	Los Angeles	CA
Portsmouth/Piketon Residents for Environmental Safety and Security	McDermott	Ohio
Progressive Peace Coalition	COLUMBUS	OH
Redwood Alliance	Arcata	CA
Riverwise Magazine	Detroit	MI
Safe Energy Right Group (SEnRG)	Peekskill	NY
San Clemente Green	San Clemente	CA
San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace	San Luis Obispo	CA
SEED Coalition	Austin	Texas
Snake River Alliance	Boise	ID

Solartopia	Studio City	CA
STAND UP/SAVE LIVES CAMPAIGN	Burr Ridge	IL
Stop the Algonquin Pipeline Expansion (SAPE)	North Salem	New York
Toledo Coalition for Safe Energy	Toledo	Ohio
Trinity University; San Antonio Sierra Club	Bulverde	TX
United For Clean Energy	Peekskill	NY
Uranium Watch	Moab	Utah
Vermont Yankee Decommissioning Alliance	Plainfield	Vermont
Washtenaw350	Ann Arbor	Michigan
Waste Not Alliance	Cleveland	Ohio
We Want Green Too	Detroit	Michigan
Western New York Environmental Alliance	Buffalo	NY
Western NY Drilling Defense	Buffalo	NY
Western Shoshone National Council	Las Vegas	Nevada
Wisconsin Environmental Health Network	Madison	WI