

What Reviewers Said About *Walking a Nuclear Tightrope*

Peter Bradford

Vice Chairman, UCS Board of Directors
Former NRC Commissioner

Extended nuclear power plant shutdowns reveal both regulatory laxity and financial vulnerability. This timely report underlines the extent to which inadequate regulatory vigilance remains a weak link in the nuclear safety chain. The subsidies and licensing shortcuts heaped on the nuclear industry in recent years cannot possibly generate confidence on the part of either the public or of private investors until the regulatory establishes a reputation for independent and transparent statesmanship.

Shawn Burke

Senior Vice President –
Corporate Bond Research
HSBC Securities (USA) Inc.
New York

The UCS report accurately spotlights the pervasive and recurring risks of nuclear power for utility investors. Shortfalls in the reactor oversight process by both operators and the NRC, as evidenced by these extended outages, tarnish utility credit quality for years after the units are returned to service. If adopted, the regulatory reforms outlined in this provocative report would reduce the risk premiums required by financial markets in order to finance the next generation of nuclear power plants.

Congresswoman Sue Kelly

United States House of Representatives
New York's 19th District

The UCS has performed its usual top-notch due diligence in producing this valuable report that identifies significant steps that can be taken to increase nuclear safety. The NRC and Congress should seriously bear in mind the report's recommendations to ensure that we are requiring and enforcing the utmost safety in operations at nuclear power plants throughout our country.

Frank von Hippel

Program on Science and Global Security
Princeton University
New Jersey

When a regulatory agency is captured by the industry that it regulates -- as the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has been to a substantial degree -- civil society has to try to fill the gap. The Union of Concerned Scientists has been a major contributor to this gap-filling effort since before NRC was severed from the Atomic Energy Commission in 1974.

This excellent report is another example of the UCS's path-breaking analyses. Given the potentially severe consequences of a reactor accident, Congress and the public should take notice of the sensible recommendations made in this report.

Jim Warren

Executive Director
North Carolina Waste Awareness & Reduction Network

Even more than with its past work, the Union of Concerned Scientists knocks a hole in the industry's PR that aggressively misleads the general public about safety at U.S. nuclear plants.

The report reconfirms the danger posed by yet another federal agency neglecting to prioritize public safety.

It seems clear that if NRC followed its own rules, Shearon Harris' 14-year violation of fire protection regulations would add another notch to the long list of outages required to restore safety margins.