

“their participation was shallow indeed”—they rarely showed up. They have a “vested interest” in shutting down U.S. plants, not in safety studies.

The Public Citizen ad raises allegedly “secret” safety issues about 39 General Electric plants that were publicly aired in Congress and put to rest in 1978. Nevertheless, the Public Citizen group uses this to demand that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission halt construction and licensing of 29 commercial power plants now being built, saying that they had the potential for catastrophes like the one at Chernobyl.

Public Citizen’s “Big Lie” number-one is, of course, to state directly what Stuart Diamond only implied, that the Chernobyl plant had a containment building. Second, it broadcasts a totally fabricated scare story about a “confidential 1971 memo” by nuclear safety adviser Dr. Stephen Hanauer. The ad says that Hanauer’s secret memo advises the government not to let GE build this type of plant because the “pressure suppression containment system” was unsafe. Public Citizen sounds the alarm that the government, nuclear regulatory officials, and GE are thus conspiratorily involved in a “30-year cover-up of nuclear safety dangers.”

Public Citizen neglects to mention that the so-called secret safety issues involved were exhaustively and publicly discussed and resolved by Congress and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission when the very same memos were surfaced by the anti-nukes in 1978. Public Citizen also neglects to let readers know that the same Dr. Hanauer stated in a letter to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission on June 20, 1978: “My current opinion is that designs including pressure suppression containments can be licensed, because we have adequate assurance of their safety. This was also my opinion in 1972.”

A spokesman for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission commented: “The technical issues were specifically discussed in a report called ‘A Technical Update on Pressure Suppression Type Containment in U.S. Boiling Water Reactor Plants,’ which was put out in July 1978 to address that subject to members of Congress and the public. That report concluded that the designs of pressure suppression type containment had adequate safety margins to protect the health and safety of the public.”

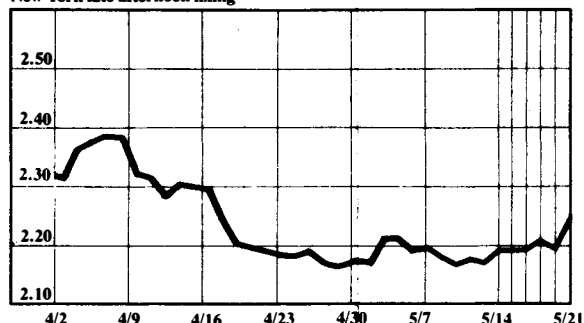
The issues raised in the Public Citizen advertisement are addressed in detail in the response of General Electric. GE documents how the safety issue raised by Hanauer—how a pressure suspension containment system compared to other “dry” containment systems—was subjected to testing, review, and modification in the 1970s. The record of this successful testing, of course, is not secret and is accessible to Public Citizen and to reporters.

GE also refutes in detail the Big Lie that Chernobyl’s safety system bears any resemblance to GE’s nuclear reactors. As one GE spokesman put it, “To say that our reactor and Chernobyl are the same is like comparing a Rolls Royce to a Yugo—they are both automobiles with four wheels.”

Currency Rates

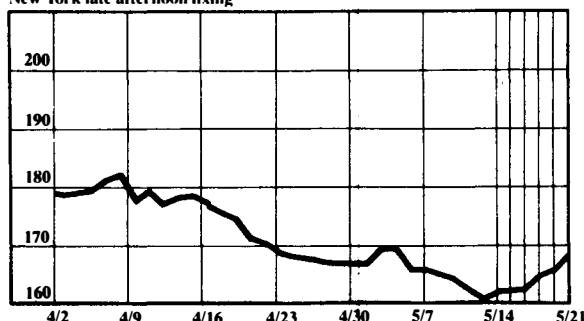
The dollar in deutschemarks

New York late afternoon fixing



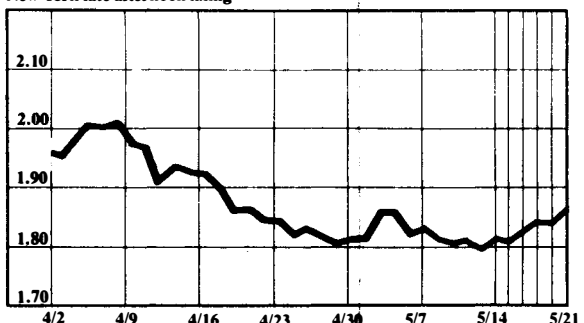
The dollar in yen

New York late afternoon fixing



The dollar in Swiss francs

New York late afternoon fixing



The British pound in dollars

New York late afternoon fixing

