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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FORMER NRC ENGINEER TO ADDRESS SEABROOK SAFETY CONCERNS

C-10 Research and Education Foundation will hold a public forum on Monday, Sept. 22, at 7:00 PM, in Nicholson Hall, 9 Harris Street, Newburyport. Former Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) nuclear engineer Johan Hopenfeld, PhD will address a serious safety issue recently discovered at Seabrook Station—the corrosion and cracking of steam generator tubes.

During the May 2001 refueling outage, Seabrook owners and the NRC discovered several cracked steam generator tubes that were determined to be both “unusual and unexpected” because the plant has been operating for only a decade. Sandra Gavutis, Executive Director stated, “C-10 requested the NRC conduct a comprehensive inspection of all four steam generators at the upcoming October outage. The NRC has failed to reply to this request”, Gavutis further stated. Under Federal law, the NRC is responsible for assuring these tubes are “designed, fabricated, erected and tested to the highest quality standards practical”.

Dr. Hopenfeld worked for the NRC for eighteen years as a nuclear engineer. The focus of his work was testing steam-generator equipment and evaluating related safety issues. In a “Differing Professional Opinion”, Hopenfeld wrote, “The NRC continues the culture of failing to keep the public informed of the danger to them from not removing severely degraded steam generators from service, relaxing regulations and continuing the practice of throwing the problem into research “for the ostensible purpose of masking regulatory inaction”. “Maintaining the integrity of these tubes is a high priority—but the NRC failed to act”, added Hopenfeld.

C-10 encourages the public to attend and sign a petition to MA and NH Congressman requesting action on this safety issue. For more information call C-10 at 978-465-6646.

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