

# things they said

Some statements made at the New York Symposium on Environmental Aspects of Nuclear Power Stations.

"I hope that this symposium will help to show the public that there is an earnest, adequate and successful approach made since the beginning to make the use of nuclear energy as nearly fully safe as is possible by the best efforts of man".

P. Courvoisier, Switzerland

"The IAEA has drawn up a wide range of internationally approved health and safety rules comprising standards and recommendations. The rules cover almost every type of activity in which nuclear energy is used for peaceful purposes".

Ivan Zheludev, IAEA

"Just look outside!".

A.D. Turkin, USSR,  
commenting on necessity for preventing pollution.

"I believe a need exists for a central repository on the amounts and concentrations of radioactivity released in connection with civilian uses. I can think of no more appropriate agency for such an undertaking than the key world organization in the field of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy — the IAEA".

Glenn T. Seaborg, USA

"It has been made clear from the results of radiation monitorings that the status of the environmental radioactivity at the areas surrounding both stations (Tsuruga and Tokai power stations) remains unchanged even after plant operation".

T. Yoshioka, Japan

"As examples of some risks of modern technology, I have selected the risks incurred in motor, rail and air travel, and in the use of the contraceptive pill". (Respectively 0.2, less than 0.01, 0.02 and 0.06 per cent over a lifetime).

F. D. Sowby, UK

"The public health aspects of the KANUPP reactor, the conditions governing the discharge of radioactive wastes into the atmosphere and the permissible concentration of radioactive substances in the air and water have been analyzed. The principle on which the solution of this problem has been based is that of preventing radioactive contamination of the environment by proper design and management of the systems and by keeping the public out of contact with any released activity by maintaining adequate control. On these considerations, it may be concluded that the operation of the KANUPP reactor would not cause any significant hazard to the population".

M. Nasim, Pakistan

"The ICRP (International Commission on Radiological Protection) recommendations on public exposure, endorsed by the UK Medical Research Council's Committee on Protection Against Ionizing Radiation, are accepted as the relevant permissible levels of exposure and as such are embodied in the UK policy for control of radioactive waste disposal. The objectives of this policy may be summarized as the need to ensure compliance, regardless of cost, with the ICRP dose limits for members of the public and to set a permissible population exposure such that on average the dose does not exceed 1 rem per person per thirty years. Within this framework every attempt is made, having due regard for cost, to achieve what is practicable to reduce doses far below these levels."

A. Preston, UK

"The safety of large nuclear centres for the generation of electricity has been, since their first conception, a matter of prime consideration on the part of the specialists and the programmes of experimental studies (numerous and accordingly extremely important) have been devoted to safety techniques".

P. Candes, France,  
on control of radioactive effluents from fast reactors.

"Measurements in the environment may well be reduced as it becomes demonstrable that the station makes only a small or, indeed, unmeasurable impact on the environment. At nuclear fuel reprocessing plants, it is likely that more detailed environmental programmes will always be needed, but here too simplification should be possible after an initial period during which experience is gained".

H. J. Dunster, UK

"I believe firmly that the inherent safety of the nuclear fission chain reaction as it is utilized in today's reactors, the care used in their design and construction, the careful operation of these plants by well trained utility personnel, and the AEC procedures for licensing and controlling nuclear reactors places them at the low end of the risk spectrum that we as a society face".

Theos J. Thompson, USA

"The influence of a power station is frequently undetectable against the background variations arising from natural causes, or from pollution attributable to other sources. This favourable conclusion seems remarkable only to those who are unaware of the forethought and attention to design that have been employed to produce just such an end result".

F. R. Hunt, UK

"An ideal scheme for disposal of highly radioactive wastes is considered to be one which provides for complete isolation and absence of interaction of the waste from man's biosphere for time periods of the order of several hundred thousand years with no operation, maintenance or surveillance required after disposal, and at an economical cost".

K. J. Schneider, USA

"Once a labour surplus has appeared — once everyone can be fed — the exploitation of this surplus requires more energy. Otherwise one gets a dispossessed urban proletariat, without work, without roots, without hope, and breeding conflict, violence and war".

B. I. Spinrad, IAEA

"We have in the past year or so begun to speak out in an effort to bring about better public understanding of what nuclear power has to offer".

James T. Ramey, USA