A Critical Look

Nuclear professionals must actively work to prevent and correct these errors and the impressions they make. One avenue is social media. For example, Science Channel has Facebook pages for series and episodes where people can comment and ask questions. It is important that nuclear professionals respond to these inaccuracies to set the record straight. More importantly, media executives must be encouraged to use knowledgeable reviewers to improve their episodes. Science Channel executives in particular should be contacted and urged to correct their ways. Executives' email addresses are on the Internet. Nuclear professionals must respond to every inaccurate segment on nuclear and not assume that some other professional will do it. You may even be asked to act as a knowledgeable reviewer someday.

When informed of the noted errors in the TMI episode, a Science Channel executive responded to me, saying, "We always try to get the facts right at Science and correct them when we don't." One can only hope that Science Channel will do just that, but it takes effort by nuclear professionals to step up.

By the way, the *Deadly Engineering* series now has three episodes that deal with nuclear accidents. In addition to the one on TMI, the program's very first episode features Chernobyl. Finally, the third segment, on Fukushima, aired September 29, not in time to be reviewed for this edition of *NN*. But the trailer says the plants exploded, and the concurrent video shows what looks like some non-Fukushima facility engulfed in flames. I wonder what other errors have been made.

Steve Redeker is a 40-year ANS member. Now retired, he spent 28 years in commercial nuclear plant operations, engineering, and management, including as decommissioning manager at the Rancho Seco nuclear power plant. He also served for five years as a U.S. Navy nuclear officer on submarines.





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