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Waste Awareness and Reduction Network

NC WARN



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Spent Fuel Project Office
Att: Amy Snyder
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555-0010

Rules and Directives
Branch
(10/10)

2/21/03
68 FR 8530
166

Dear Ms. Snyder,

I am writing in response to the 02/21/03 Federal Register Notice inviting public comment on the NRC's draft test protocol for the Package Performance Study. I appreciate your allowing these comments after the official public comment period is closed.

NC WARN members and activists have long been frustrated with the lack of public involvement in the NRC's decision-making process. In 1998 with the expansion of the high-level waste storage capacity at the Shearon Harris nuclear power plant in Wake Co., North Carolina citizens saw a failed federal process. The NRC required no Environmental Impact Statement of Progress Energy, the owner of the plant, and there was a lack of public hearings on the expansion.

Again this lack of public involvement has occurred. The NRC has proposed a study on testing nuclear waste transport casks, and failed to hold one of its many public hearings in the only state where nuclear waste is currently being imported-North Carolina. This past Saturday NC WARN, and Public Citizen, hosted a citizens' hearing to replace the one not held by the NRC. Over 150 residents from across central North Carolina attended to voice their concerns about this study. Included in this packet are their written comments.

I was dismayed to learn that the Performance Package Study (PPS) would not be testing the casks being used to import waste to the Shearon Harris plant. I strongly urge you to consider testing these casks as they are the only ones currently in use.

I also echo the concerns of other public interest organizations, such as Public Citizen, who have stressed the need for more intensive testing of the transport casks in the PPS. Included in this more intensive testing should be an explosion test. With the current political climate, slow moving trains or trucks of nuclear waste make desirable targets for acts of terrorism, or insanity, and this must be taken into consideration when testing transport casks.

Thank you for your consideration of these critical issues.

Sincerely,

Lauren Whitley
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