

**PR 52**  
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**From:** Linda Modica <linda.c.modica@mac.com>  
**To:** <SECY@nrc.gov>  
**Date:** Mon, Dec 17, 2007 10:39 PM  
**Subject:** Comments Proposed Rule RIN 3150-AL1

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December 18, 2007 (9:59am)

Radiation Committee

December 16, 2007

OFFICE OF SECRETARY  
RULEMAKINGS AND  
ADJUDICATIONS STAFF

Ms. Annette Vietti-Cook  
Office of the Secretary  
Attention: Rulemaking and Adjudications Staff  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555-0111  
SECY@nrc.gov

Via email:

RE: Comments Proposed Rule RIN 3150-AL19

Dear Ms. Vietti-Cook:

In response to the notice in the Federal Register dated October 3, 2007 (Vol. 72, No. 191, pp. 56287-56308) the Sierra Club Radiation Committee submits the following comments on the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) proposed rule "Consideration of Aircraft Impacts for New Nuclear Power Reactor Designs."

The Sierra Club fully endorses, adopts and incorporates the submitted comments of: Beyond Nuclear, Greenpeace USA, Pilgrim Watch and the Union of Concerned Scientists on the proposed rulemaking (NRC) proposed rule "Consideration of Aircraft Impacts for New Nuclear Power Reactor Designs."

In addition, we add the following.

1. The proposed rule making should not only expand to consider existing reactors, irradiated fuel pools and onsite highly radioactive storage facilities, but should also consider possible weakening of containment of all nuclear power plant sites due to hurricanes, tornados, and/or earthquakes over time and/or structural deficiencies.

Component erosion has resulted in long down times and costly investments at most aging nuclear plants. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission cannot reasonably assure the public that similar erosion issues have not and will not weaken structures at nuclear power plants. If structures are weakened at existing reactors, the probabilistic risk assessments that the NRC has assumed will protect the public may be inaccurate. The public deserves to be assured that the NRC has considered and resolved this issue.

2. The proposed rule making should be expanded to similar attacks by water as virtually every reactor lies adjacent to rivers, lakes and open oceans. Ships and boats are capable of launching weapons directly at current and proposed nuclear reactors, intake systems, irradiated fuel pools and onsite high-level radioactive waste storage casks. The consequences of such an attack(s) could be comparable to air attack and deserve the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's full

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attention..

## CONCLUSION

The comments of Beyond Nuclear; Greenpeace USA, Pilgrim Watch and the Union of Concerned Scientists on the proposed rulemaking (NRC) proposed rule "Consideration of Aircraft Impacts for New Nuclear Power Reactor Designs, " should be reviewed and the rulemaking amended to include the NRC the resolution of issues brought forth. Sierra Club has chosen not to repeat the comments of these organizations, but to provide a few additional comments we believe also deserve review and resolution and the rulemaking amended to include comments on air attacks. In addition, the NRC should open a new rulemaking on Sierra Club's comments relating to attacks by water.

Respectfully submitted,

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"The unleashed power of the atom has changed everything save our modes of thinking and we thus drift toward unparalleled catastrophe."  
~~ Albert Einstein, Telegram, 24 May 1946.

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