# PR 51 (73FR59547) (73FR59551)

# **Rulemaking Comments**

To:	Diane D'Arrigo [dianed@nirs.org] Wednesday, November 12, 2008 8:34 AM Rulemaking Comments; CHAIRMAN Resource; CMRSVINICKI Resource; CMRLYONS Resource; CMRJACZKO Resource; Neil Jensen
Subject:	EXTENSION REQ to NRC re Waste Confidence Decision 10CFR51 [Docket ID-2008-0482]; 73FR59551, 10-9-08)+Fuel Storage After Reactor Cessation 10CFR51, RIN: 3150-Al47, [NRC-2008-0404] 73FR59547, 10-9-08
Attachments:	WASTE CONFIDENCE ext req letter Nov 12.doc

To: the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555

Rulemaking.Comments@nrc.gov CHAIRMAN@nrc.gov CMRSVINICKI@nrc.gov CMRLYONS@nrc.gov CMRJACZKO@nrc.gov neil.jensen@nrc.gov DOCKETED USNRC

November 12, 2008 (11:30am)

OFFICE OF SECRETARY RULEMAKINGS AND ADJUDICATIONS STAFF

From: Multiple Organizations and individuals listed below

Contact: Diane D'Arrigo Nuclear Information and Resource Service 6930 Carroll Avenue Suite 340 Takoma Park, MD 20912; 301-270-6477 x16; dianed@nirs.org

Date: November 12, 2008

RE: Request to NRC to EXTEND for 3 months the Public Comment Period on

- ► Waste Confidence Decision and
- ► Consideration of Irradiated Fuel Storage at Closed Reactors

The organizations below call on the US NRC to provide additional time for the public to comment on proposed

Waste Confidence Decision Update (10 CFR Part 51 [Docket ID-2008-0482]; 73 FR 59551, 10-9-08) http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/pdf/E8-23381.pdf and

Consideration of Environmental Impacts of Temporary Storage of Spent Fuel After Cessation of Reactor Operation <u>http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/pdf/E8-23384.pdf</u> (10 CFR Part 51, RIN: 3150–AI47, [NRC–2008–0404] 73 FR 59547, 10-9-08)

We request that NRC extend the comment periods for 90 additional days beyond the December 8, 2008 deadline for both of these high level radioactive waste/irradiated (spent) nuclear fuel proposals published in the Federal Register October 9, 2008. Both of the NRC's proposals make assumptions that have legal, regulatory, environmental, economic, health, safety, security, moral, genetic and philosophical significance. In order to have a meaningful opportunity to comment on the proposals and their underlying assumptions, and thereby ensure that the NRC complies with the National Environmental Policy Act in evaluating the environmental impacts of high-level radioactive waste disposal, the undersigned organizations require additional time to evaluate the claims and assumptions made in the proposals.

Template = SECY-067

The last time the NRC published anything more than a cursory review of the Waste Confidence determination was 1990 in 55 Fed. Reg. 38474 (September 18, 1990). In the proposed revision of waste confidence Findings 2 and 4, the NRC has made some critical and complex judgments that are very different than the judgments made in support of Findings 2 and 4 in the 1990 Waste Confidence rule. It will take considerable time to study the NRC's judgments and make informed comments on them in a manner that would promote public discourse and better decision-making.

The proposed Waste Confidence rule raises important technical and policy questions that demand a significant amount of research and analysis – far more than can be accomplished in 60 days. For instance, the NRC has cited the history of repository programs in various countries as justification for its confidence that "sufficient mined geologic repository capacity can reasonably be expected to be available within 50–60 years beyond the licensed life for operation (which may include the term of a revised or renewed license) of any reactor..." The NRC has cited programs from the UK, Sweden, Finland, Switzerland, Canada, and Germany as part of the basis of its conclusion. The history of these programs is complex and involved, and more than 60 days is required to do the level of research and analysis necessary to determine whether the NRC has correctly interpreted the history of these programs.

While the NRC does not rely on the idea that the capacity of Yucca Mountain will be increased, it provides no technical basis that would indicate that such an increase in capacity could be accommodated within the final EPA dose limits. Public comment on this issue requires some time to address the various complexities, especially in view of the fact that the EPA final rule has only recently been published.

As another example, the NRC has made assumptions about legislative actions in arriving at its proposed text for Findings 2 and 4. The basis for these assumptions is not clear. It will require a study of the legislative and regulatory history of the U.S. repository program, including the history of the NWPA and the PFS program to address.

Finally, the proposals impact communities with existing and new nuclear power reactors, existing and proposed reprocessing facilities, high level waste storage and disposal facilities as well as existing and proposed transportation routes between these facilities. As organizations involved in public education on nuclear issues and as organizations concerned about nuclear safety and the environment, we believe that 60 days is entirely insufficient for us to be able to inform the public about the proposed changes and seek their input. This problem has become even more complex in the last year, since there are now proposals for almost three dozen new reactors, spread from East to West and potentially for new reprocessing facilities.

NRC is required to responsibly regulate and manage nuclear waste, which will remain dangerous for literally millions of years. Given the significant and long-lasting character of the risk, given the NRC's unique role in managing that risk, and given that the NRC's determinations may be used to justify the construction and operation of an entire new generation of nuclear power plants, it is critical that the public be given a sufficient amount of time to analyze and respond to the issues raised by these two proposals. We respectfully submit that an extension of time of three months is the minimum amount of time required in order to provide a meaningful opportunity to comment on the proposals.

Sincerely,

# NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND ENTITIES

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Greenpeace Jim Riccio, Nuclear Policy Analyst Washington, DC

Clean Water Action Lynn Thorp Washington, DC

Public Citizen's Energy Program Tyson Slocum, Director Washington, DC

Sierra Club Dave Hamilton Washington, DC

Nuclear Age Peace Foundation Alice Slater New York, NY 10028

Institute for Energy and Environmental Research Arjun Makhijani, Ph.D., President Takoma Park MD

SUN DAY Campaign Ken Bossong, Executive Director Takoma Park, MD 20912

Beyond Nuclear Kevin Kamps Takoma Park MD

Radiation and Public Health Project Ernest J. Sternglass, Ph.D., Director Prof. Emeritus of Radiological Physics Pittsburgh, PA. 15213

Citizens For Renewable Energy (CFRE) S. (Ziggy) Kleinau, Co-ordinator Lion's Head ON N0H 1W0, Canada

International Science Oversight Board Lynn Howard Ehrle, Chair Plymouth, Michigan

### STATE, REGIONAL AND LOCAL

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Defenders of the Black Hills Charmaine White Face, Coordinator Rapid City, SD 57709

Physicians for Social Responsibility Chesapeake Chapter G Dubois

Carrie Dickerson Foundation Marilyn McCulloch, Board Secretary Tulsa, OK

Citizens Action for Safe Energy B. Geary Tulsa OK

Arizona Safe Energy Coalition Betty Schroeder Tucson, Arizona

GE Stockholders Alliance Patricia Birnie Tucson, Arizona

NC Citizens Research Group Wells Eddleman, Staff scientist North Carolina

Carolina Peace Resource Center Arnold E. Karr, Director Columbia, SC 29202

C-10 Research & Education Foundation Sandra Gavutis, Executive Director Newburyport, MA 01950

Northwest Environmental Advocates Nina Bell, J.D., Executive Director Portland, OR 97212-0187

North Carolina Waste Awareness & Reduction Network NC WARN Jim Warren, Executive Director North Carolina Citizens for Peaceful Resolutions Robert Barrett Ventura, CA 93001

Redwood Alliance Michael Welch Arcata, CA

Citizens for Alternatives to Radioactive Dumping Janet Greenwald Albuquerque, New Mexico, 87106

Hudson River Sloop Clearwater Manna Jo Greene, Env'tal Director Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

Northeast Pa. Audubon Society Katharine Dodge, President Honesdale, PA Baltimore Green Party Richard Ochs Maryland

Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility Rochelle Becker, Executive Director San Luis Obispo, CA

People's Alliance for Clean Energy Elena Day, Charlottesville, VA Paxus Calta, Louisa, VA

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Nuclear Energy Information Service Dave Kraft Chicago, Illinois

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Citizens Awareness Network Deb Katz, Executive Director Shelburne Falls, MA 01370

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Foundation for Global Community Tom Ferguson, Coordinator Atlanta, GA

Food Not Bombs/Atlanta Bob Darby, Coordinator Atlanta, GA

Southern Maryland Citizens' Alliance for Renewable Energy Sources William Johnston, Huntingtown Julia Clark, Solomons Calvert County, Maryland

SoMd Citizens Alliance for Renewable Energy Solutions Deanna Dove North Beach, MD

Hanford Watch Paige Knight Portland, Oregon

Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility Gwen L. DuBois Md, Mph Maryland

Action for a Clean Environment Adele Kushner, Executive Director Alto, GA 30510

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Coalition for Responsible and Ethical Environmental Decisions (CREED) Lyn Harris Hicks, Director-Advocate Southern California

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Center for Earth Spirituality and Rural Ministry Lisa A. Coons Mankato, MN 56001

Mankato Area Environmentalists (MAE) Gladys Schmitz, SSND Mankato, MN 56001-3138

Earth Day Coalition Chris Trepal Cleveland, Ohio

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Nevada Nuclear Waste Task Force Judy Treichel, Executive Director Las Vegas, NV 89126

San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace Jane Swanson, spokesperson San Luis Obispo, CA

Grandmothers for Peace/San Luis Obispo County Chapter Molly Johnson, area coordinator San Miguel, CA

Citizen Power David Hughes, Executive Director Pittsburgh, PA 15217

Texans for a Sound Energy Policy Jim Blackburn Victoria, Texas Texans for a Sound Energy Policy Alliance John Figer Victoria, Texas

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Don't Waste Oregon Colleen O'Neil Portland, Oregon

Environmental Coalition on Nuclear Power Judith Johnsrud, Ph.D. State College, PA

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Craig Frey San Diego, CA Received: from mail1.nrc.gov (148.184.176.41) by TWMS01.nrc.gov (148,184,200,145) with Microsoft SMTP Server id 8,1,291,1; Wed, 12 Nov 2008 09:03:44 -0500 X-Ironport-ID: mail1 X-SBRS: 5.6 X-MID: 32664843 X-IronPort-Anti-Spam-Filtered: true X-IronPort-Anti-Spam-Result: AnkBADdMGElBY//snGdsb2JhbACBdlcsi26BPgEBAQEJCwgJEawQCYpnglMlfQ X-IronPort-AV: E=Sophos;i="4.33,590,1220241600"; d="doc'32?scan'32,208,217,32";a="32664843" Received: from outbound1.exchangedefender.com (HELO outbound2.exchangedefender.com) ([65.99.255.236]) by mail1.nrc.gov with ESMTP; 12 Nov 2008 09:03:36 -0500 MailScanner-NULL-Check: 1227100595.47655@zIWYDzujzUx4ORUz8Rj3Ow Received: from mail.nirs.org (70-91-66-1-washington.dc.hfc.comcastbusiness.net [70,91,66,1] (may be forged)) by outbound2.exchangedefender.com Wed, 12 Nov 2008 07:16:27 -0600 (8.13.1/8.13.1) with ESMTP id mACDGGQA026450; MIME-Version: 1.0 Content-Type: multipart/mixed; boundary="---- = NextPart 001 01C944CB.61974C08" Content-Class: urn:content-classes:message Subject: =?UTF-8?B?RVhURU5TSU9OIFJFUSB0byBOUkMqcmUqV2FzdGUqQ28=?= =?UTF-8?B?bmZpZGVuY2UgRGVjaXNpb24gMTBDRII1MSBbRG9ja2U=?= =?UTF-8?B?dCBJROKAkzIwMDjigJMwNDgyXTsgNzNGUjU5NTUxLCAxMC05?= =?UTF-8?B?LTA4KStGdWVsIFN0b3JhZ2UgQWZ0ZXIgUmVhY3RvciA=?= =?UTF-8?B?Q2Vzc2F0aW9uIDEwQ0ZSNTEsIFJJTjogMzE1MOKAk0FJNA==?= =?UTF-8?B?NvwgW05SQ+KAkzIwMDijaJMwNDA0XSA3M0ZSNTk1NDcsIDEw?= =?UTF-8?B?LTktMDg=?= X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft Exchange V6.5 Date: Wed, 12 Nov 2008 08:34:22 -0500 Message-ID: <F843DDD6574AE54384B9A1F257E6B497024D9393@nirssrv1.NIRS.local> X-MS-Has-Attach: X-MS-TNEF-Correlator: Thread-Topic: =?UTF-8?B?RVhURU5TSU9OIFJFUSB0byBOUkMgcmUgV2FzdGUgQ28=?= =?UTF-8?B?bmZpZGVuY2UgRGVjaXNpb24gMTBDRII1MSBbRG9ja2U=?= =?UTF-8?B?dCBJROKAkzlwMDjigJMwNDgyXTsgNzNGUjU5NTUxLCAxMC05?= =?UTF-8?B?LTA4KStGdWVsIFN0b3JhZ2UgQWZ0ZXIgUmVhY3RvciA=?= =?UTF-8?B?Q2Vzc2F0aW9uIDEwQ0ZSNTEsIFJJTjogMzE1MOKAk0FJNA==?= =?UTF-8?B?NywgW05SQ+KAkzIwMDjigJMwNDA0XSA3M0ZSNTk1NDcsIDEw?= =?UTF-8?B?LTktMDa=?= Thread-Index: AciEy1AeKFTWbF6ZTd+5evNpCe398w== From: Diane D'Arrigo <dianed@nirs.org> To: <Rulemaking.Comments@nrc.gov>, <CHAIRMAN@nrc.gov>, <CMRSVINICKI@nrc.gov>, <CMRLYONS@nrc.gov>, <CMRJACZKO@nrc.gov>, <neil.jensen@nrc.gov> X-ExchangeDefender-Info: Please contact the ISP for more information X-ExchangeDefender-VirusScan: Found to be clean X-ExchangeDefender-From: dianed@nirs.org X-Spam-Status: No Return-Path: dianed@nirs.org