

Rulemaking Comments

From: Claire L. Schosser [cschosser@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, February 02, 2009 1:11 PM
To: Rulemaking Comments
Subject: Comment on Federal Register Notice: 73 FR 197-- 10/09/2008 Docket ID-2008-0482 and Docket ID-2008-0404

February 2, 2009

re: Federal Register Notice: 73 FR 197-- 10/09/2008 Docket ID-2008-0482 and Docket ID-2008-0404

To whom it may concern:

You have proposed the following rule change:

Finding 2: The Commission finds reasonable assurance 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 to dispose of the commercial high-level radioactive waste and spent fuel originating in such reactor and generated up to that time.

Finding 4: The Commission finds reasonable assurance that, if necessary, spent fuel generated in any reactor can be stored safely without significant environmental impacts for at least 60 years beyond the licensed life for operation (which may include the term of a revised or renewed license) of that reactor in a combination of storage in its spent fuel storage basin and either onsite or offsite independent spent fuel storage installations.

Re Finding 2: I do not agree that sufficient mined geologic capacity can reasonably be expected to be available within 50-60 years. In fact, no such geologic capacity exists. Yucca Mountain is not sufficient and never will be. No wastes will ever remain where we put them; thermodynamics ensures that wastes will eventually distribute themselves throughout the environment. Some of the waste remains radioactive for over 200,000 years! Furthermore, transport of wastes to any such facility is rife with potential danger to the people who live near the intended routes. There will be an accident at some point that will injure and kill people. Since I live 2 blocks from an active rail line that is likely to be used for such transport, this is of great concern to me.

Re Finding 4: I also do not agree that the spent fuel can be stored safely on the site of a nuclear reactor for at least 60 years. There are many potential hazards to reactors that can compromise their safety over this short period, among them tornadoes and earthquakes, both of which are issues here in Missouri. Furthermore, such sites offer a very inviting target to anyone who would wish to cause mayhem. It is very difficult to prevent against such attempts without creating draconian measures that compromise whatever civil liberties we still have.

Now is the time to admit our mistake: nuclear materials must not be used for ANY purpose. We must simply stop making nuclear weapons; using nuclear-powered reactors to generate electricity, and even using nuclear materials in scientific and medical research and applications, including cancer treatment. Then we must figure out how we can live well without using nuclear materials. If we would only begin, we can do it; we are surely clever enough.

Sincerely,
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