

Rulemaking Comments

From: Jon Block [jblock41@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, February 02, 2009 7:30 PM
To: Rulemaking Comments
Subject: Include reference to the Federal Register Notice: 73 FR 197-- 10/09/2008 Docket ID-2008-0482 and Docket ID-2008-0404

Comment on the proposed changes to the so-called waste confidence rule

Date: 2/2/2009

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

Nuclear waste stored in the vicinity of an operating nuclear reactor presents a clear and present danger to the persons working on that site and to the public who may live and work within a large radius surrounding that site. This agency well knows-- from a variety of its own studies, viz. the original Brookhaven fuel pool study, studies on the penetrability of cask storage to missile attack from fully portable missile launchers, the aging studies on the casks currently approved for use, as well as the increased likelihood of terrorist attacks on such targets that is manifest after 9/11, etc.--that cask storage is neither safe enough per se nor in the long term (as described in the rule changes) to warrant extending the waste confidence rule.

The fact is that if all NRC personnel were jointly and severly liable for damage to persons and property due to accidents caused by extension or modification of this rule, you would not change it except to make it more difficult to store high-level radioactive waste at operating nuclear reactor sites or anywhere else above ground.

That you have proposed this rule and are going forward with with it demonstrates your utter contempt for human health and safety in the operation of nuclear reactors. What you are doing truly makes the proposed rule change a confidence game that protect industry investment while burdening the public with the ever-increasing risk of an even greater nuclear accident than mere operation of the nuclear reactor provides on a daily basis. The compounding of risk is unnecessary, unthinkable and completely unprofessional for an actual safety regulator. Only an agency controlled by the industry it is supposed to regulate undertake a rule change such as this. Have you no sense of shame? have you no sense of decency?

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