

Rulemaking Comments

From: meaghan simpson [mendingwheel@webtv.net]
Sent: Tuesday, February 03, 2009 3:27 AM
To: Rulemaking Comments
Subject: Public Confidence in the NRC Would Be Strengthened By Nuclear Waste Realism and Compliance With the National Environmental Polic

Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Rockville, MD
US

Dear Nuclear Regulatory Commission,

Re: 73 FR 197 -- 10/09/2008
Docket ID?2008?0482 and Docket ID-2008-0404

Public Confidence in the NRC Would Be Strengthened By Nuclear Waste Realism and Compliance With the National Environmental Policy Act

The siting and licensing of new nuclear power reactors is a major federal action, and it is appropriate for the NRC to conduct a site-specific Environmental Impact Statement process under NEPA for each of these licensing actions. However, as NRC revisits its "Waste Confidence Decision," it is fundamental to a rational discussion that the proposed operation of additional nuclear power reactors in the USA be included, as additional reactors would necessarily result in the generation of more radioactive waste in the USA. The NRC has previously identified high-level radioactive waste generation as a generic issue, therefore it is appropriate that any major federal action on radioactive waste (such as changing the Waste Confidence Decision) be considered in a generic (programmatic) NEPA proceeding. Such an inquiry must include all aspects of the nuclear fuel chain -- since the decision to site and license new nuclear power reactors triggers not only more radioactive waste generation at nuclear power reactor sites -- it also triggers new radioactive waste generation at every point in the fuel chain starting with the mining of uranium, through the many processing steps (milling, conversion, enrichment, conversion, fuel fabrication) and all the transportation links in between. The impact to workers, nearby residents, communities, our environment and the consideration of alternatives to these impacts must be included in this impact analysis. For too long the true costs of our energy production have been labeled "externalities" and not factored in energy decisions. It is time that the full scope of the radioactive legacy of nuclear energy be included in Federal decision-making.

DANGER! CAUTION! WARNING! STOP! I GREW UP ON THE ONCE GORGEOUSLY HEALTHY SAN ONOFRE BEACH, CALIFORNIA, USA, IN THE 1940's, 1950's, 1960's BEFORE A SICK NUCLEAR POWER PLANT WAS BUILT THERE SOME 30 YEARS AGO! FOR 30 YEARS SAN ONOFRE BEACH HAS BEEN POSTED AS UNINHABITABLE, NO ONE CAN SIT ON OR USE OUR BEACH! THE RADIATION IS KILLER AND NO ONE SHOULD SWIM THERE!!! RADIATION DAMAGE TO OUR HEALTH IS NOT ACCEPTABLE! NO ONE WANTS TO WORK AT A NUCLEAR ENERGY PLANT! NO ONE WANTS ANYONE THEY LOVE TO WORK THERE. THE EMPLOYEES TOLD US THEY KNOW THEY ARE PAID AS WELL AS THEY ARE DUE TO THE SERIOUS HEALTH RISKS OF THEIR JOBS! NOBODY NEEDS ANYMORE NUCLEAR WEAPONS NOW NO NO NO! STOP THE INSANE PROPAGANDA THAT NUCLEAR IS CLEAN BECAUSE IT IS LOWER IN GREENHOUSE EMISSIONS THAN OTHER UNGREEN TECHNOLOGIES! THIS IS MISLEADING AND NEGLIGENT AND NO BEFITTING PRUDENT LEADERSHIP REQUIRED FOR RESPONSIBLE DECISIONS AND PLANS!

MY DAD WAS RADIATED IN NAGASAWKI JAPAN WHILE BUILDING A HOSPITAL THERE BEFORE RETURNING HOME FROM WW III! ANYONE WHO CONTINUES TO PROMOTE NUCLEAR ENERGY HAS BLOOD ON THEIR HANDS FOR THE PAIN AND SICKNESS AND DISABILITIES CAUSED BY THIS EVIL ABUSES TO LIFE ON PLANET EARTH! NO MORE BUSINESS AS USUAL NO! OUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN DESERVE ALOT BETTER LEADERSHIP BEFORE YOU DECIDE TO KILL ANOTHER

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FEW BEACHES AND NEIGHBORHOODS AND WASTE OUR TIME WITH SUCH GREED HEADS WHO ARE LIKE MOB-GANGSTERS THIS NRC/ARC INDUSTRY HAS SOLD THIS TECHNOLOGY AROUND THE WORLD TO COUNTRIES WHO SHOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN TEMPTED INTO SUCH DANGEROUS WAR TECHNOLOGIES. AND THIS NRC/ARC INDUSTRY IS OUT TO SELL MORE AND MORE AND MORE OF THESE NUCLEAR PLANTS WORLD WIDE TO EUROPE AND GOD KNOWS WHERE NEXT! WARREN BUFFET COULD NOT WAIT TO JUMP INTO PROMOTION OF MANY NEW PLANTS! WASTE WASTE WASTE WASTE AND WORRY WITHOUT WISE PLAN FOR SAFETY HEALTH SECURITY GONE NOT POSSIBLE YOU ARE IN RUTS OF GREED AND PROFITS AND CARELESSNESS IN TOTAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST WITH THE COMMON GOOD OF THE PEOPLE!

its "confidence" in the eventual permanent "disposal" of radioactive waste -- however the expectation that "disposal" will prevent release of this material into our environment has so far not been supported by any proposed program. The Yucca Mountain site would, according to federal agency projections, leak. The guidelines and regulations have been changed repeatedly to accommodate and "validate" this failure such that it is "acceptable." All the so-called "Low-Level" radioactive waste dumps dating back to the 1960's have leaked, and there is zero confidence that the existing regulations will keep any newer dump from leaking. This history of atomic waste policy does not inspire public confidence in the federal agencies mandated to "solve" the nuclear waste problem. Further, dry cask storage technology, upon which the Commission rests its immediate confidence, is a sorely insecure disposition for this most concentrated of dangerous wastes. Poor design, poor quality control, in some cases faulty fabrication, have created the equivalent of a rocket that cannot land. Overall lack of security and monitoring have left reactor communities extremely vulnerable, even as they are being told that the casks are a basis for "confidence." I am writing to urge nuclear waste realism: the NRC should suspend all generation of atomic waste from new sources unless and until a truly permanent program that is scientifically sound and rooted in a just and equitable siting/decision process is instituted. I also support a NEPA analysis of the issues associated with wastes generated at every step in the fuel chain, prior to any federal action.

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