

Rulemaking Comments

PRM-72-6
(74FR09178)

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From: Site Administrator [action@ucsusa.org] on behalf of Bette Kisner [bette_kisner@vmed.org]
Sent: Friday, May 15, 2009 2:47 PM
To: Rulemaking Comments
Subject: Docket # PRM 72-6 (Reduce Vulnerability of Stored Nuclear Waste)

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June 18, 2009 (2:29pm)

Nuclear Regulatory Commissioners

OFFICE OF SECRETARY
RULEMAKINGS AND
ADJUDICATIONS STAFF

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to encourage the NRC to take steps to increase the security and safety of nuclear waste stored at civilian nuclear reactor sites, which remains unacceptably vulnerable to a terrorist attack or accident.

More specifically, I urge you to support a rule change that would strengthen the protection of nuclear waste stored in dry casks against foreseeable threats, such as sophisticated terrorist attacks, which might emerge over the next several decades. Please accept provision

(11) of the rulemaking petition submitted by the C-10 Research and Education Foundation, which outlines this change.

Those upgrades could include a combination of physical measures, such as putting spent fuel casks into enclosed buildings, using earthen

embankments or other barriers, and other measures such as insuring that intruders will be denied access to independent spent fuel storage installations.

In addition, the current practice of allowing the rods to be stored in wet pools where they are densely packed together poses a dangerous

security risk. In the absence of a place to permanently store the waste underground, the NRC should require plants to promptly transfer spent

fuel from the pools to dry casks as soon as the fuel has cooled enough.

This would reduce the likelihood of a spent fuel fire due to accident or terrorist attack and the amount of radioactive material that could be released by such a fire.

Ever since I saw the 60 Minutes segment on how easy it was for the reporter presenting the story to get access to several nuclear power plants, I have been frightened about terrorists getting similarly easy access..

Especially now that we are so distracted by the economic

crisis and money is so tight, I realize that terrorists' full-time job is to focus on ways to find a myriad of ways to destroy us. And the explosion of nuclear waste seems like an effective means of mass destruction. So, please pay close attention to taking every step possible to preventing this from occurring.

Sincerely,

Ms. Bette Kisner
798 Dorchester Ave Apt 4
Dorchester, MA 02125-1171

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