

Rulemaking Comments

From: Site Administrator [action@ucsusa.org] on behalf of Veronica Petrus
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Sent: Saturday, May 16, 2009 2:51 AM
To: Rulemaking Comments
Subject: Docket # PRM 72-6 (Reduce Vulnerability of Stored Nuclear Waste)

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USNRC

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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.

Since these plants are not as secure as they should be, these measures should be implemented immediately. I would also suggest that

information about the current practice of storage be more accessible to all citizens. I am sure that the public response would bring action sooner and with more pressure if it is released as a warning rather than a possibility.

I am also concerned about the alleged unsafe state of the plants in general. Stricter guidelines and more frequent inspections should also be a priority. The placement and overall costs of new plants should also be considered. Personally, I believe that all plans for new construction should be abandoned, and existing plants should be phased out. We would not have the concerns about the storage of even more waste.

Thank you for your attention in this matter and I hope your reaction will be swift and effective.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Veronica Petrus
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