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PRM-72-6
(74FR09178)

Rulemaking Comments

From: Site Administrator [action@ucsusa.org] on behalf of Robert Bixby [rbixby@earthlink.net]
Sent: Saturday, May 16, 2009 4:30 AM
To: Rulemaking Comments
Subject: Docket # PRM 72-6 (Reduce Vulnerability of Stored Nuclear Waste)

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USNRC

May 16, 2009

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.

Support a rule change that would strengthen our protection from 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. I think a large storage facility should be built under the capitol dome and the office buildings used by senators and congresspeople and all spent nuclear material and contaminated

reactor parts could be stored there. These places are already carefully guarded and having the dangerous material a brief elevator ride from their offices and the legislative chambers would help legislators to develop a healthy respect for the dangers they pose.

For permanent disposal of nuclear materials, holes should be dug in the bedrock in subduction zones where continental plates slip under other continental plates, such as the aleutian islands or the mariana trench--two places under US control. Over the course of thousands of years, sealed containers placed in the bedrock in subducting continental plates would be diverted into the mantle of the earth.

There, they would be mixed with millions of cubic miles of semimolten rock and remain in suspension until long after the radiation had died out.

Sincerely,

Mr. Robert Bixby

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