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General Comment

Clean energy? Some things last forever, like deadly spent fuel rods. We weren't able to address the issue of nuclear waste problem with authorizing the proposed 17 new nukes that you now have applications for. Dismissive explanations after the Estero meeting about safely storing the stuff in silicone logs and about how quickly it depletes didn't satisfy us. Why do we object to the waste generated by nuclear power plants?

Nevadians don't want it in Yucca Mountain. Barnwell is full. Where do we keep the waste?

Each nuke in America keeps these deadly things in swimming pools on site. It was supposed to be a temporary solution, but Turkey Point in Homestead has been saving them for 37 years. They are 10 to 30 times more deadly than the reactor core.

Now FP&L has applied to build two more nukes at Turkey Point. Progress Energy has applied to build two more in Levy County, north of Tampa. And the rods pile up. What do we care when we have the government to protect us? A good investment! Costs and risks are passed on to the taxpayer and the consumer (\$20 billion for each--if nothing untoward happens).

Everything in the environment is connected to everything else. The United States government lied to us about WMD in Iraq. It's easy for it to lie about spent fuel rods. So I worry.

Depleted uranium doesn't deplete very much. Plutonium-239 only lasts 24,100 years. And Plutonium

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244 only lasts 80 million years. Uranium is cheaper than recycling because we mine it on "Indian" reservations and leave the radioactive tailings at the site of the mines. "Indians" don't complain.

Our mountain-top removal coal mining is visibly appalling. The smoke from its oxidation is not easy to overlook. Problem with spent rods is that the radiation it emits is colorless, invisible, odor-less, tasteless--undetectable unless you've got your own Geiger counter. So most Americans don't believe it's there. We don't believe it's deadly because we cannot detect it. It's easy to lie about it to our gullible citizenry and to our over-lobbied congresspersons, to call nuclear power "green energy."

Green! Ha! In the US, the enrichment facility at Paducah, Kentucky, requires the electrical output of two 1000-megawatt coal-fired plants, which emit large quantities of carbon dioxide, the gas responsible for 50% of global warming.

Also, this enrichment facility and another at Portsmouth, Ohio, release from leaky pipes 93% of the chlorofluorocarbon gas emitted yearly in the US. The production and release of CFC gas is now banned internationally by the Montreal Protocol because it is the main culprit responsible for stratospheric ozone depletion. But CFC is also a global warmer, 10,000 to 20,000 times more potent than carbon dioxide.

In fact, the nuclear fuel cycle utilizes large quantities of fossil fuel at all of its stages--the mining and milling of uranium, the construction of the nuclear reactor and cooling towers, robotic decommissioning of the intensely radioactive reactor at the end of its 20 to 40-year operating lifetime, and transportation and long-term storage of massive quantities of radioactive waste.

In summary, nuclear power produces, according to a 2004 study by Jan Willem Storm van Leeuwen and Philip Smith, only three times fewer greenhouse gases than modern natural-gas power stations.

Contrary to the nuclear industry's propaganda, nuclear power is therefore not green and it is certainly not clean. Nuclear reactors consistently release millions of curies of radioactive isotopes into the air and water each year. These releases are unregulated because the nuclear industry considers these particular radioactive elements to be biologically inconsequential. This is not so.

These unregulated isotopes include the noble gases krypton, xenon and argon, which are fat-soluble and if inhaled by persons living near a nuclear reactor, are absorbed through the lungs, migrating to the fatty tissues of the body, including the abdominal fat pad and upper thighs, near the reproductive organs. These radioactive elements, which emit high-energy gamma radiation, can mutate the genes in the eggs and sperm and cause genetic disease.

Tritium, another biologically significant gas, is also routinely emitted from nuclear reactors. Tritium is composed of three atoms of hydrogen, which combine with oxygen, forming radioactive water, which is absorbed through the skin, lungs and digestive system. It is incorporated into the DNA molecule, where it is mutagenic.

The dire subject of massive quantities of radioactive waste accruing at the 442 nuclear reactors across the world is also rarely, if ever, addressed by the nuclear industry. Each typical 1000-megawatt nuclear reactor manufactures 33 tons of thermally hot, intensely radioactive waste per year. You at the NRC are our last line of defense against this insidious nuclear war.

Do not issue license permits for the 17 applications or for any new nukes. No nukes is good nukes.

Rulemaking Comments

From: Gallagher, Carol
Sent: Wednesday, July 01, 2009 10:58 AM
To: Rulemaking Comments
Subject: Comment on Emergency Preparedness proposed rule
Attachments: NRC-2008-0122-DRAFT-0043.pdf

Attached for docketing is a comment from John Dwyer on the above noted proposed rule that I received via the regulations.gov website on June 26, 2009.

Carol

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To: Rulemaking Comments <Rulemaking.Comments@nrc.gov>
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