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Notice of Public Workshop on a Potential Rulemaking for Safe Disposal of Unique Waste Streams Including Significant Quantities of Depleted Uranium

Comment On: NRC-2009-0257-0001

Public Workshop: Potential Rulemaking for Safe Disposal of Unique Waste Streams Including Significant Quantities of Depleted Uranium

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Comment on FR Doc # E9-14820

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General Comment

Depleted uranium disposal meetings to be conducted in two locations this year by the NRC are my issue. I know that enrichment facilities process natural occurring uranium to extract the valuable uranium 235 from the very predominant (99.3 %) uranium 238 as the latter of the two is not a useful fissile isotope. The waste stream is all that uranium 238, commonly referred to as tailings, but in this case, as depleted uranium. Now all that uranium came from the ground or from a mine, so why can't it go back to where it came from? There is a lot of uranium world wide, just as there is a lot of thorium 232. Thorium 232 was everywhere when I lived in Colorado. Shovel some dirt, and the shovel will include thorium 232. Half lives: U-238 - 4.46 E9 years; U235 - 703.8 E6 years; Th-232 - 1.404 E 10 years. We have had a fair amount of decay of U-235, but very little decay of the other two, thus the uranium isotope percentage difference. They are all but stable, in fact. Now they all finally decay to elements like radium and it is not only an alpha emitter, like uranium and thorium are. If an organization tried to license a coal fired plant as a nuclear plant, they couldn't, due to the 10CFR20 limits on radium releases. Now how many people know that?

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