

PR 51  
(74FR38117)



RIVERKEEPER.

DOCKETED  
USNRC

September 1, 2009 (1:40pm)

OFFICE OF SECRETARY  
RULEMAKINGS AND  
ADJUDICATIONS STAFF

VIA U.S. MAIL AND E-MAIL

August 31, 2009

Secretary  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001  
Attn: Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff  
[Rulemaking.Comments@nrc.gov](mailto:Rulemaking.Comments@nrc.gov)

Re: Revisions to Environmental Review for Renewal of Nuclear Power Plant Operating Licenses (10 C.F.R. Part 51, RIN 3150-I42, NRC-2008-0608, 74 Fed. Reg. 38,117 (July 31, 2009))

Dear Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff:

Riverkeeper, Inc. (hereinafter "Riverkeeper") hereby respectfully requests that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission extend the comment period for the above-referenced rulemaking proceeding by 90 days. As an organization dedicated to addressing environmental issues related to the operation of Indian Point nuclear power plant, Riverkeeper has a vested interest in the subject rulemaking.

The proposed rule attempts to update 13-year old findings related to environmental reviews for nuclear power plant license renewals. Since the time these original findings were made by the Commission, significant events and new knowledge have fundamentally changed the baseline environment. Ample time is needed to thoroughly review the NRC's update to determine whether the proposed modifications accurately reflect the new environmental landscape that has developed over the last 13 years. Allowing sufficient time for meaningful public input will truly benefit the process by allowing for a more comprehensive review by the NRC. Such a comprehensive review is imperative in light of the fact that the next reassessment will not occur for at least 10 years. *See* 10 C.F.R. Part 51, App. B to Subpart A.

The need for ample time to review and comment upon the proposed changes is also underscored by the amount of time and effort that ostensibly went into the revisions. Indeed, the NRC has spent three years since the first 10-year review cycle ended in 2006 devising the proposed changes. *See* 10 C.F.R. Part 51, App. B to Subpart A. The resulting draft documents incorporating the NRC's changes (Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) for License

Renewal of Nuclear Plants (NUREG-1437, Revision 1), Regulatory Guide 4.2, Supplement 1, Revision 1, and Environmental Standard Review Plan, Supplement 1, Revision 1 (NUREG-1555)), are quite voluminous in nature and will take a considerable amount of time to properly review and analyze.

Based on the foregoing, we believe that the current 75-day comment period, which expires on October 14, 2009, is not a sufficient amount of time to provide Riverkeeper and the public with a full and fair opportunity to provide meaningful comments. Therefore, Riverkeeper submits that the comment period should be extended for an additional 90 days.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this request. Should someone wish to contact me to discuss any of the foregoing, I may be reached at (914) 478-4501 x 230, or via e-mail at [dbrancato@riverkeeper.org](mailto:dbrancato@riverkeeper.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Deborah Brancato".

Deborah Brancato  
Staff Attorney

## Rulemaking Comments

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**From:** Deborah Brancato [DBrancato@riverkeeper.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 31, 2009 7:59 PM  
**To:** Rulemaking Comments  
**Subject:** Request for extension of public comment period on Proposed Rule (RIN 3150-I42, NRC-2008-0608, 74 Fed. Reg. 38117 (July 31, 2009))  
**Attachments:** 2009.08.31.Letter Requesting Extension of Public Comment Period.pdf

To NRC Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff,

Attached, please find a letter from Riverkeeper, Inc., requesting an extension of time to file public comments on the NRC's proposed rule, "Revisions to Environmental Review for Renewal of Nuclear Power Plant Operating Licenses." A hard copy will follow by mail.

We appreciate your consideration of this request.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Brancato  
Staff Attorney  
Riverkeeper, Inc.  
828 South Broadway  
Tarrytown, NY 10591  
914-478-4501 (ext. 230)  
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Riverkeeper -- Defending the Hudson. Protecting Our Communities.

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halfmoon.riverkeeperny.com ([10.1.4.52]) with mapi; Mon, 31 Aug 2009 19:58:51  
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From: Deborah Brancato <DBrancato@riverkeeper.org>

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

Date: Mon, 31 Aug 2009 19:58:48 -0400

Subject: Request for extension of public comment period on Proposed Rule  
(RIN 3150-I42, NRC-2008-0608, 74 Fed. Reg. 38117 (July 31, 2009))

Thread-Topic: Request for extension of public comment period on Proposed  
Rule (RIN 3150-I42, NRC-2008-0608, 74 Fed. Reg. 38117 (July 31, 2009))

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