From: Site Administrator on behalf of jan balcom
To: Rulemaking Comments
Subject: Docket # PRM 72-6 (Reduce Vulnerability of Stored Nuclear Waste)
Date: Friday, May 15, 2009 3:57:16 AM

May 15, 2009

Nuclear Regulatory Commissioners

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.

Like many Americans, I've been nervous about the safety of our nuclear reactors and their effects for a long time, but times have changed and

the dangers have increased. The NRC needs to keep pace to keep nuclear energy viable and reasonably safe in these times.
Please support a rule change that would strengthen the protection of

nuclear waste stored in dry casks against what are real and foreseeable threats, such as sophisticated terrorist attacks, and accept provision (11) of the rulemaking petition submitted by the C-10 Research and Education Foundation which outlines this change.

The necessary safety upgrades could include a combination of measures,

such as putting spent fuel casks into enclosed buildings, using earthen embankments or other barriers, and taking more steps to insure that intruders will be denied access to independent spent fuel storage installations.
The current practice of allowing the rods to be stored in wet pools where they are densely packed together poses an unnecessary and unacceptable 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 is cool enough, in order to reduce the likelihood of the spent fuel being susceptible to catching fire and releasing dangerous radiation as the result of either an accident or terrorist attack.
Thank you for your consideration of my words. Use the best science presently available to take the necessary steps to make our existing nuclear power plants and their waste safer.

Sincerely,

Mrs. jan balcom
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