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9/1/2011  
76FR54502

RULES AND REGULATIONS  
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Cindy Bladey (RADB)  
Office of Administration  
Mail Stop TWB-05-B01M  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C 20555-0001

OCT 27 PM 2:19

19 October, 2011

Dear Ms. Bladey, docket NRC-2010-0029

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I wish to oppose the relicensing until 2043 of the commercial nuclear reactor at Hanford Washington because it seems to me to involve the same type of dangerous procedure as at Chernobyl. There too the plant operators wanted to increase the amount of electricity generated, so they turned off the safety measures and accelerated the generators to see if they could squeeze some extra energy out of the existing plant. Relicensing, extending the period of use of the Hanford plant, is the same sort of thing. Using plutonium fuel increases the danger from unforeseen events like Three Mile Island (leak) and Fukushima (tsunami flooding shutting down coolant systems) Despite anti-terrorist measures, it cannot be guaranteed that some suicide bomber or drone will never succeed in sabotaging a nuclear power plant

What should be done is to follow the example of another advanced industrial country, Germany, and phase out all nuclear generating stations over a period. In the U.S., energy could be conserved, requiring less, and made up by natural gas, solar, wind, ocean wave, and geothermal sources, as well as residual oil supplies (not pipelined Canadian shale).

As a resident of the State of Washington, I am opposed to further developing Hanford as a national dump for radioactive waste. Hanford needs to be cleaned up even more vigorously than at present, especially leaking containers and polluted underground water supplies, particularly aquifers headed towards the Columbia River. Now that the people of Nevada have refused to allow Yucca Mountain to be filled with glassed radioactive waste, which would have created hazards due to the thousands of rail and truck journeys required to bring radioactive waste from all parts of the country. Waste needs to be held at the site at which it is produced. Eventually these sites will be full, so no more waste should be produced as the nuclear plants are decommissioned and closed, no more built, and the waste sealed there and guarded.

Sincerely,  
*H. T. Bernstein*

Henry T. Bernstein.  
3439 NW 62nd Street  
Seattle, WA 98107

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