

## LeeCOLAEISComments Resource

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**From:** Daya Apunte [daya@invirodesign.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 07, 2012 1:00 AM  
**To:** LeeCOLAEIS Resource  
**Subject:** NUREG-2111: Public Comment

March 6, 2012

Nuclear Regulatory Commission

11555 Rockville Pike or  
Rockville, MD 20852

Re: Human Interference and Nuclear Waste

Nuclear Regulatory Commission:

I am a local resident who is being asked to pay for Duke Energy's environmentally irresponsible proposal. Below is my primary concern.

Let us not only consider the present environmental impacts, but also the entire lifespan of the waste stream, which is considerable. It takes about 100,000 years for the nuclear waste to be safe enough for our environment. There are long-term underground holding sites, such as Onkalo in Finland. However, the unresolved issue of human interference over the course of the 100,000 years is their largest threat. According to Juhani Vira, the Sr. Vice President, Research of Onkalo, there is no found way to prevent people's curiosity or ignorance when Finnish or other current languages and symbols may become extinct by that vast length of time. A perfect example of this is the Egyptian pyramids, which were sealed "permanently", never to be interfered with. We are still not able to read all of the symbols and messages from certain lost civilizations. Vira states that it is safest to not leave any warning signs above the site, but to forget it in order to reduce the likelihood of interference. However, future societies may decide to unknowingly drill through the rock, as we do with wells today and as was have done as far back as the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Even though this catastrophe may not happen in our lifetime, it is a looming threat to the future environment of our children's children's children and so on. Plus, this example of Onkalo's underground holding facility only has the capacity for storing a fraction of the total approximately 250,000 tons of nuclear waste. With a need for more storage, there may eventually be several underground storage facilities, greatly increasing the danger of a breach of the holding facility. I feel that the NRC's Environmental Impact Statement does not adequately address the issue of long-term storage, as there is not currently a viable solution: "there would be no on-site facilities for long-term storage or permanent disposal of solid wastes, so the packaged wastes would be temporarily stored in the auxiliary and radwaste buildings prior to being shipped to a licensed disposal facility (3-46)." However there is currently no permanent licensed disposal facility (in the United States), as stated by Andrew Kugler of the NRC.

Thank you for your careful consideration and attention to public concerns, so that we may work together for the betterment of our current and future societies.

Sincerely,

**Daya Apunte**

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