

Rulemaking Comments**PRM-50-104
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From: Sally Shaw [acer8sac@comcast.net]
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OFFICE OF SECRETARY
RULEMAKINGS AND
ADJUDICATIONS STAFF

With the nation's nuclear reactors aging and leaking, and given revelations about the inadequacy of Mark 1 reactor containment in the event of a loss of power/LOCA, it is time for the NRC to heed the wishes of the affected population around all nuclear power plants and expand the mandatory evacuation zone. A ten-mile EPZ is woefully inadequate. The reality is, a spent fuel pool fire which is an ever-increasing probability given over-stocked, outside-of-containment, top-floor pools at Mark 1 and possibly other vintage reactors, would contaminate an area far wider than the existing sacrifice zone around reactors. Indeed, when it appeared that the Fukushima Daichi #4 fuel pool had boiled dry, the NRC recommended a 50-mile evacuation zone for American personnel. This reality must be admitted and codified in regulations that will be truly protective of the affected population in the event of a reactor accident or fuel pool fire. The affected population must be made aware of their risk and the need for careful emergency evacuation planning, before tragedy strikes at home. A revision of the evacuation zone regulations is long overdue. Accurate planning requires realistic plume models, population, distance and time-frame calculations for moving people out safely. Underestimating the size of the contamination zone only makes this monumental task more difficult and dangerous.

Sally Shaw

Gill, MA 01354
US