

Rulemaking Comments

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When I was in college in the 1960s I watched a number of films about nuclear disasters and the effects of radiation on areas near and quite far away from the actual center of the radiation. I am also an alumni of the "duck and cover" strategy taught in public schools in the 1950s. I think, even as 2nd graders, we understood how dumb it would be to expect that getting under our desks and covering our heads would protect us from bombs (we didn't really understand radiation).

As the years have passed I hear less and less about safety measure for nuclear disasters, if in fact that is not an oxymoron. It seems that the more possible radiation damage becomes, the more our society and our government buy their collective heads in the sand. Chernobyl was a disaster of epic proportions but was generally dismissed by the U.S. public as being far away from us. Fukushima happened and governments and energy companies spent most of their energy explaining how much went "right" with the Fukushima plant.

The current 10 mile evacuation zone will be about as effective as the old duck and cover routine. Radiation particles and the wind that carries them do not observe boundaries and evacuation borders.

Current NRC regulations for nuclear disasters, particularly those coupled with natural disasters such as earthquakes and tsunamis, are inadequate for evacuation. NRC should adopt the proposed rule expanding the current emergency planning zones and should also include emergency exercises that take into consideration natural disasters which accompany nuclear disasters.

Thank you.

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