

Rulemaking Comments**PRM-50-104
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From: Bruce Pringle [pringb@comcast.net]
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OFFICE OF SECRETARY
RULEMAKINGS AND
ADJUDICATIONS STAFF

Fukushima and other nuclear disasters demonstrate the importance of emergency planning for nuclear emergencies. Regulations from the time of the 1980 Three Mile Island accident are badly outdated and do not adequately protect public health and safety.

The experiences of Fukushima and Chernobyl show that the current 10-mile emergency evacuation zone is too small. More than 150,000 people evacuated near Fukushima, from as far as 25 miles away--50,000 of those, according to the Associated Press (5/16/12) evacuated from outside the mandatory evacuation zones. Meanwhile, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission and U.S. State Department recommended that Americans within 50 miles of Fukushima evacuate. Even so, as much as 80% of the airborne radiation released at Fukushima blew directly over the Pacific Ocean, rather than populated areas. Such good fortune cannot be counted on here. Hurricane Katrina demonstrate the difficulties associated with evacuating when a natural disaster strikes that causes roadways to wash out. Emergency preparedness drills and exercises should include regionally appropriate natural disasters such as droughts, flooding, blizzards, earthquakes, wildfires, and hurricanes.

In Chernobyl, radionuclides tainted crops and animal products hundreds of miles away. More than 25 years after that accident, sheep in Wales--hundreds of miles away--remain interdicted. Similarly, in Fukushima contamination of rice, milk, and other food has been exhibited 100 miles and more from the site.

I therefor request that the NRC adopt the proposed rule expanding emergency planning zones to the respective 25, 50, and 100 mile zones and add a new requirement that emergency exercises include scenarios of regionally appropriate initiating or concurrent natural disasters.

Thank you,

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US