

Rulemaking Comments**PRM-50-104
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From: Philip Rutledge [prutledge@carolina.rr.com]
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May 23, 2012 (11:45 am)
**OFFICE OF SECRETARY
RULEMAKINGS AND
ADJUDICATIONS STAFF**

I did my masters thesis on the issue of nuclear accident planning and response and it was very clear from my research that the current 10-mile evacuation zone is way too inadequate. For the NRC to actually consider more lenient policies on evacuation zones borders on insanity. More realistically, it suggests members of the NRC have sold out to private corporate interests at the expense of the public interest.

The zone needs to be expanded - dramatically.

In addition, industry should not be allowed to offer placating reassurances in their planning brochures and advertising suggesting that an accident is never likely to happen. This causes the citizen to turn off to the message of preparedness. Despite these emergency preparedness brochures, various studies have shown that people are most likely to act in "common sense" manner in the event of a nuclear emergency. This means driving to school to get their kids (even if it clogs traffic) and driving away as fast as they can get out rather than obeying a radio announcement that "authorities advise people to stay put." I am sure you already know this, and that is why the NRC as an agency appears almost entirely dysfunctional.

There is still hope for the NRC. Do the right thing and protect the public interest. After all that is your charge. Expand the zones - don't contract them - and monitor carefully how the issue of nuclear preparedness is presented to the average person.

Thank you,

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