Comment# 279
77 FR 65137
10/25/2012

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: January 08, 2013
Received: December 13, 2012
Status: Pending_Post
Tracking No. 1jw-82il-567t
Comments Due: January 02, 2013
Submission Type: Web

Docket: NRC-2012-0246
Consideration on Environmental Impacts on Temporary Storage of Spent Fuel After Cessation of Reactor Operation

Comment On: NRC-2012-0246-0001
Consideration of Environmental Impacts of Temporary Storage of Spent Fuel After Cessation of Reactor Operation

Document: NRC-2012-0246-DRAFT-0345
Comment on FR Doc # 2012-26295

RECEIVED
2013 JAN -8 PM 3: 12
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General Comment

Spent fuel should be secured in three ways, Thompson said. First, it should be passively safe. The waste should remain safe without relying on electricity, cooling water or a human crew. Second, the facility where the waste is stored should be hardened to resist an attack by anti-tank missiles and crashed commercial jets. At ground level, this would mean layers of concrete, steel, gravel and other substances around and above the spent fuel. Third, the waste should be decentralized; that is, stored on the sites of nuclear plants, not at a centralized facility, and dispersed around each reactor site if possible.

Cooling pools do not currently meet any of three dimensions of robustness.

Dry casks meet the "passivity" requirement of robustness but not the other two.

SUNSI Review Complete
Template = ADM – 013
E-RIDS= ADM -03
Add= S. Lopas (SLL2)