

WCRM-GEIS1CEm Resource

From: Sierra Club [information@sierraclub.org] on behalf of Joan Landes [jbl5@psu.edu]
Sent: Sunday, September 22, 2013 10:26 PM
To: RulemakingComments Resource
Subject: Protect our communities from radioactive waste!

Sep 22, 2013

Allison McFarlane

Dear McFarlane,

I am writing you because I am concerned about how we store our most hazardous waste, the radioactive fuel rods from nuclear reactors. We should not license or re-license any reactor until it has been proven that we can successfully isolate this waste. There are safe and efficient alternatives to this dangerous source of energy. There is no recovering from the the horrible effects of nuclear contamination and the problems of waste storage, as Fukushima, Chernobyl and Three Mile Island show. Other countries have abandoned nuclear -- why not the US as well?

While we are working on the solution, I am also concerned that many of our nuclear reactors have over-crowded fuel pools on site. These present safety threats to the communities and industries that surround the plants. The NRC should take immediate action to reduce the number of fuel assemblies in the water-filled pools. Before transferring the fuel rods to cask storage, the cask storage needs to be examined and reinforced to be able to safely store the fuel rods particularly those that qualify as high burn up fuel. Hardened on-site storage of the casks should become the choice for storage.

I am also concerned about the sustainability of nuclear power. The EIS needs to evaluate the true costs of nuclear power after the subsidies are stripped away. The long-term costs of decommissioning need to be considered as well. The ongoing costs to US taxpayers should be transparent in this EIS.

Finally, the EIS should consider the option of not making any nuclear waste at all in the future by comparing the environmental footprint of nuclear from mining to long term waste disposal to that of renewables and energy efficiency.

Sincerely,

Joan Landes
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Federal Register Notice: 78FR56775
Comment Number: 1770

Mail Envelope Properties (21096160.1379903130638.JavaMail.www)

Subject: Protect our communities from radioactive waste!
Sent Date: 9/22/2013 10:25:30 PM
Received Date: 9/22/2013 10:30:51 PM
From: Sierra Club

Created By: information@sierraclub.org

Recipients:
"RulemakingComments Resource" <RulemakingComments.Resource@nrc.gov>
Tracking Status: None

Post Office: app230

Files	Size	Date & Time
MESSAGE	1854	9/22/2013 10:30:51 PM

Options
Priority: Standard
Return Notification: No
Reply Requested: No
Sensitivity: Normal
Expiration Date:
Recipients Received: