

Rulemaking1CEm Resource

From: RulemakingComments Resource
Sent: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:57 PM
To: Rulemaking1CEm Resource
Subject: FW: Protect our communities from radioactive waste!

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TITLE: Waste Confidence—Continued Storage of Spent Nuclear Fuel
COMMENT#: 00073

-----Original Message-----

From: Sierra Club [<mailto:information@sierraclub.org>] On Behalf Of Dan Pittillo
Sent: Monday, September 23, 2013 7:56 AM
To: RulemakingComments Resource
Subject: Protect our communities from radioactive waste!

Sep 23, 2013

Allison McFarlane

Dear McFarlane,

As a researcher studying for my pH.D. in the University of Georgia in 1963-66, I learned how invasive the radionuclides could be in ecosystems. There were radioisotopes from nuclear bomb testing accumulating in tree species in nutrient impoverished soils of granitic outcrops. Then when later faced with a high-level nuclear permanent storage in the granites in western North Carolina and Raleigh area, I knew there were possibilities that this would be a major problem with ground water. Now with this issue taking place in the Northwest, we need to have some control for such a potentiality.

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.

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,

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