

## Rulemaking1CEm Resource

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**From:** RulemakingComments Resource  
**Sent:** Friday, October 25, 2013 1:58 PM  
**To:** Rulemaking1CEm Resource  
**Subject:** FW: Protect our communities from radioactive waste!

**DOCKETED BY USNRC—OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
SECY-067**

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**FRN#:** 78FR56775  
**NRC DOCKET#:** NRC-2012-0246  
**SECY DOCKET DATE:** 9/23/13  
**TITLE:** Waste Confidence—Continued Storage of Spent Nuclear Fuel  
**COMMENT#:** 00075

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

From: Sierra Club [<mailto:information@sierraclub.org>] On Behalf Of Dennis Balgemann  
Sent: Monday, September 23, 2013 8:26 AM  
To: RulemakingComments Resource  
Subject: Protect our communities from radioactive waste!

Sep 23, 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.

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.

Once nuclear contamination extends beyond the containers designed to hold it there is no way of getting that contaminated waste back, and away from areas of environmental concern. Nuclear power should not be given the green light anymore. It is perhaps even more detrimental to the environment than are the

CO2 emissions from power plants. Nuclear contamination does not eventually lose its toxicity until many years, and several generations or more, and by that time it has exacted enormous physiological, and biological damage to both humans, and the life forms that come in contact with it. There is not safe "forever" design for nuclear waste, and the best alternative is to eliminate it from the arsenal of potential energy systems.

Sincerely,

Dennis Balgemann  
6201 Marmaduke Ln  
North Fort Myers, FL 33917-4407  
(239) 470-1486

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