

WCRM-GEIS1CEm Resource

From: Sierra Club [information@sierraclub.org] on behalf of Suzanne Sundburg [pro.wordsmith@verizon.net]
Sent: Sunday, September 22, 2013 9:27 PM
To: RulemakingComments Resource
Subject: Protect our communities from radioactive waste!

Sep 22, 2013

Allison McFarlane

Dear McFarlane,

I am writing you to express my concern 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 and safely store 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 businesses that surround the plants. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission 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. And those in geologically active areas should be able to withstand earthquakes and tremors.

I am also concerned about the sustainability of nuclear power. The environmental impact statement (EIS) must 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 U.S. 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 lifecycle environmental costs of nuclear power, from mining to long-term waste disposal, to that of renewables and improvements in energy efficiency.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Sundburg
5300 8th Rd N
Arlington, VA 22205-1206

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