

WCRM-GEIS1CEm Resource

From: Sierra Club [information@sierraclub.org] on behalf of Linda Schneider [dogsin@earthlink.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 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.

While we're about it, in considering the feasibility of any nuclear waste storage and disposal plan, we need to consider the dangers posed by the possible need to transport this material through the country and across state lines. Any safety plan or rules to regulate nuclear power and its waste byproducts needs to consider safeguards for any necessary transport of this material. Not only are leaks an issue to consider, but also the possibility of this material falling into the wrong hands, such as that of terrorists.

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. Until renewables are fully developed, we may need to keep nuclear as an option, particularly when compared with coal and oil, but so long as we are going to use it, we need to make every effort to preserve the safety of people and the environment.

Sincerely,

Linda Schneider
808 26th St S
Arlington, VA 22202-2404
(703) 684-8181

Federal Register Notice: 78FR56775
Comment Number: 5076

Mail Envelope Properties (14316242.1379899595769.JavaMail.www)

Subject: Protect our communities from radioactive waste!
Sent Date: 9/22/2013 9:26:35 PM
Received Date: 9/23/2013 4:32:17 AM
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	2330	9/23/2013 4:32:17 AM

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