

WCRM-GEIS1CEm Resource

From: Sierra Club [information@sierraclub.org] on behalf of David McNicholas [omcnics@verizon.net]
Sent: Sunday, September 22, 2013 11:55 PM
To: RulemakingComments Resource
Subject: Protect our communities from radioactive waste!

Sep 22, 2013

Allison McFarlane

Dear McFarlane,

Dear Chair Allison McFarlane,

I see from a recent outreach from the Sierra Club that the NRC is taking public comments on new rules and regulations regarding the treatment of radioactive waste from nuclear power plants. As my comment I'd like to include the text of a reply I sent to the Sierra Club.

"Thank you for your informative email. I agree that the handling of nuclear waste is a major problem, in fact I think it is the "elephant in the room," that people talk around but not about. From talks of transporting it to Yucca Mountain and storing it "safely" there to talks of putting it in barrels that can never outlast the lives/ half-lives of the radioactive material inside, the real truth is not acknowledged: Radioactive waste will remain radioactive, and dangerous, forever (in comparison to human lives). It can never be stored safely! Among other reasons it has always been my primary reason for opposing nuclear energy.

So I feel conflicted in proposing an approach that expresses there is a safe way to store this waste, and so gives some level of support for this technology.

But I think you are right that while the NRC is taking public comments, that this is a good time to try to effect some change. Do you have suggestions on how to approach this? Maybe I should copy this email right into a public comment. I'm just concerned that a letter saying that there should be NO nuclear power plants might just be rejected as being too extreme. I'm not sure, but I probably will send it on. Some environmentalists have embraced nuclear technology because it does not create the kind of pollution that contributes to global warming. Other environmentalists, who have opposed nuclear energy for decades, felt betrayed by that change of thinking and the support of the technology. It is a difficult balance. I believe there is no safe way to get rid of nuclear waste but that the people who are born long after us are the ones who will be effected the most.

Thank you for raising the question once again. I believe I will send this letter on as my comment to the NRC.

David McNicholas"

This is a hugely difficult question. While I oppose Nuclear Energy I am grateful for the efforts of the NRC to keep it as safe as possible. But in my heart I truly believe that it poses unavoidable risks, that will be drastically felt by others in the future beyond our lives. I highly encourage rigorous development of alternative/renewable sources of energy in its place and the burning of fossil fuels.

Thank you for taking my comment,

David McNicholas

Sincerely,

David McNicholas
21 S Wells Ave
Glenolden, PA 19036-1733

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