

WCRM-GEIS1CEm Resource

From: Sierra Club [information@sierraclub.org] on behalf of Jenny Walker [jennywalkr@aol.com]
Sent: Sunday, September 22, 2013 8:57 PM
To: RulemakingComments Resource
Subject: Protect our communities from radioactive waste!

Sep 22, 2013

Allison McFarlane

Dear McFarlane,

Nuclear power was seen as a way to address energy supply issues but without a full plan on what to do with wastes. Many of the oldest of these nuclear power plants are close to densely populated areas (ie Indian Point in NY) or near essential water supplies and other environmentally sensitive areas. 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.

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, 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. Comparing the environmental footprint of nuclear energy from mining to long term waste disposal to that of renewable energy, it is clear that nuclear is not in our best interest -- and it loses on efficiency too.

Sincerely,

Jenny Walker
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New York, NY 10026-2883

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