

WCRM-GEIS1CEm Resource

From: Sierra Club [information@sierraclub.org] on behalf of H Kenneth Fisher MD
[40zip.doc@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, September 22, 2013 10:26 PM
To: RulemakingComments Resource
Subject: Protect our communities from radioactive waste!

Sep 22, 2013

Allison McFarlane

Dear McFarlane,

I am a former chairman of the Environmental Health Subcommittee of the Los Angeles County Medical Association. I write to argue for the most careful analysis and regulation of radioactive waste disposal. I don't know how to do it. I suspect no one really does. But it is of the greatest consequence to our descendents whose water may become toxic, and whose communities may become uninhabitable. Therefore, "shoot first and ask questions later" is not good enough.

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 demonstrated that we can successfully isolate this waste with a very, very high level of confidence.

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.

Sincerely,

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