

WCRM-GEIS1CEm Resource

From: Sierra Club [information@sierraclub.org] on behalf of Mary Christenson
[mary@pleasantridgewaldorf.org]
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 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.

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.

I lived in Pittsburgh PA when Three Mile Island suffered a near meltdown. I will never forget that our local news stations did not report the truth. My mother called me from Minnesota to tell me what was really happening. I simply do not trust that we can make nuclear technology safe. Japan has proven that and still pretends to "clean up" sites by scraping off the top layer of soil.

Please stop this now. Put your focus on decommissioning these sites, rather than storing more waste.

Sincerely,

Mary Christenson
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Federal Register Notice: 78FR56775
Comment Number: 12461

Mail Envelope Properties (32148084.1379903183357.JavaMail.www)

Subject: Protect our communities from radioactive waste!
Sent Date: 9/22/2013 10:26:23 PM
Received Date: 9/23/2013 4:34:55 PM
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	2030	9/23/2013 4:34:55 PM

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