

## WCRM-GEIS1CEm Resource

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**From:** Sierra Club [information@sierraclub.org] on behalf of Cheryl Mitchell [milawoff@aol.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 an attorney in Spokane, Washington. 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. The Fukushima meltdown has raised serious safety concerns.

Many years ago I read the book, We Almost Lost Detroit. I learned that the nuclear industry is so dangerous that it cannot obtain insurance. The government decided that the American people should pay for any disasters that were the result of nuclear power.

A major effort needs to be made to find how to safely store nuclear waste. Being close to Hanford, it is apparent to me that the costs of cleanup exceed any savings produced by nuclear power. In addition, the lives of many people have been lost as a result of exposure to nuclear byproducts.

While we are working on the solution of how to safely store nuclear waste, 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 vast majority of nuclear power plants are years beyond their anticipated life expectancy. 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,

Cheryl Mitchell  
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