

WCRM-GEIS1CEm Resource

From: Sierra Club [information@sierraclub.org] on behalf of Francis Schilling [quarlo@vailaz.com]
Sent: Monday, September 23, 2013 9:24 PM
To: RulemakingComments Resource
Subject: Protect us all from radioactive waste!

Sep 23, 2013

Allison McFarlane

Dear McFarlane,

Each year 2000 metric tons of high-level nuclear waste is generated which only adds to the 58000 tons already stockpiled at existing reactors in the US. Thus, we already have more nuclear waste than can be contained in the Yucca Mountain storage facility even if it did have funding and a license to operate which at this time it does not. There is *NO* proven means to render a significant amount of this waste "inert" on a large scale and the vast majority of it will remain at dangerous levels for thousands of years. Nuclear power is an infected bandage on a problem requiring major surgery. Its proponents care more about their own economic convenience than future generations and the current health of this planet.

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.

Sincerely,

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