

WCRM-GEIS1CEm Resource

From: Sierra Club [information@sierraclub.org] on behalf of Karen Thaw [kthaw01@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, September 23, 2013 9:26 AM
To: RulemakingComments Resource
Subject: Protect our communities from radioactive waste!

Sep 23, 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.

Personal Note: Your agency has been remiss in not having guidelines in place already. Your agency needs government oversight, not public comments. Any reactor that does not already have policies in place for retiring its waste and rods, should be handled immediately by the agency that oversees nuclear reactors, as well as their state government, with the possibility of being shut down. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, where are you and why aren't you doing your job?

We had this conversation after Fukushima. Why are we still having it and why hasn't anything been done? My recommendation: Send all used nuclear rods to Texas. I'm sure the Texas governor, their brilliant leader Rick Perry will certainly know what to do with them. And he can always get up to date advice from George W. Bush, our former fearless leader.

Sincerely,

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Federal Register Notice: 78FR56775
Comment Number: 17513

Mail Envelope Properties (24944800.1379942782178.JavaMail.www)

Subject: Protect our communities from radioactive waste!
Sent Date: 9/23/2013 9:26:22 AM
Received Date: 9/24/2013 1:58:39 AM
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	2393	9/24/2013 1:58:39 AM

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