

WCRM-GEIS1CEm Resource

From: Sierra Club [information@sierraclub.org] on behalf of Marcia Henning [graciehenning@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, September 23, 2013 9:23 PM
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. Also, please consider the health effects on the people who live and work near uranium mines. Take time to research the health effects on the Navajo Nation regarding uranium mining.

I was an outreach/education specialist working for the Washington State Department of Health in a cooperative agreement partnership with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry for five years. I specialized in fish advisories. If radioactive waste leaks into the Columbia River it will be an environmental disaster of epic proportions. The impact on human health and the fishing industry will run into billions of dollars. Please heed this message. Future generations are counting on you.

Sincerely,

Marcia Henning
2214 E. Routt Avenue
Pueblo, CO 81004

Sincerely,

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Federal Register Notice: 78FR56775
Comment Number: 17658

Mail Envelope Properties (1836450.1379985775867.JavaMail.www)

Subject: Protect our communities from radioactive waste!
Sent Date: 9/23/2013 9:22:55 PM
Received Date: 9/24/2013 1:59:26 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	2317	9/24/2013 1:59:26 AM

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