

WCRM-GEIS1CEm Resource

From: Sierra Club [information@sierraclub.org] on behalf of George Henry [geohenry@mac.com]
Sent: Monday, September 23, 2013 7:25 AM
To: RulemakingComments Resource
Subject: Protect our communities from radioactive waste!

Sep 23, 2013

Allison McFarlane

Dear McFarlane,

Nuclear waste lasts forever as far as humans are concerned. Everyone who knows anything about it also knows we damned well ought to be concerned. But responsible people like you have not acted accordingly.

Cute phrases like "kicking the can down the road" only mean that the vehicle on which we all travel together is careening into a toxic swamp from which there is no escape.

We should not license or re-license any reactor until it has been proven that we can successfully isolate this waste. And that really means we should not license any at all.

While working -- or trying to work-- on a solution, we have accumulated nuclear reactors with over-crowded fuel pools on site. 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.

From the economic perspective, all evidence indicates the cost for long term, is far out of control compared to any other energy source, and recent decades have proven even intermediate and short term costs have soared far beyond predictions. The long-term costs of decommissioning need to be considered as well. The ongoing costs to US taxpayers should be transparent in this EIS.

None of this addresses the already witnessed nightmares of Fukushima, Chernobyl, or even Three Mile Island. Let's move beyond the dream world and stop ignoring reality.

Sincerely,

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