

WCRM-GEIS1CEm Resource

From: Sierra Club [information@sierraclub.org] on behalf of Holly Malarney [hmalarney@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, September 23, 2013 5:23 PM
To: RulemakingComments Resource
Subject: Protect our communities from radioactive waste!

Sep 23, 2013

Allison McFarlane

Dear McFarlane,

The purpose of this letter is to let you know that I am deeply concerned about how we store our most hazardous waste, the radioactive fuel rods from nuclear reactors. I believe that we should not license or re-license any reactor until it has been proven that we can successfully isolate this waste.

Further, while we are working on the solution, I am also concerned that many of our nuclear reactors have over-crowded fuel pools on site. It is my understanding that 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.

Another aspect that concerns me is 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.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my concerns and I will rely on you to take them into account as you proceed with your plans.

Sincerely,

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