

WCRM-GEIS1CEm Resource

From: Sierra Club [information@sierraclub.org] on behalf of Lloyd Williams [ltw3@verizon.net]
Sent: Sunday, September 22, 2013 8:57 PM
To: RulemakingComments Resource
Subject: Protect our communities from radioactive waste!

Sep 22, 2013

Allison McFarlane

Dear McFarlane,

I am writing you because I am concerned about radioactive waste from power plants and other sources, and about the responsible storage of such devastatingly dangerous materials. I do not think it is wise or responsible to issue licenses or to re-license any reactor until the plant owners have demonstrated convincingly that they are able to contain the nuclear waste in ways that will protect the public in the short and long term. Presently, the media and global nuclear politics is hushing up what is happening in Japan, but that nightmare should serve as a warning to all of us about what power plants can turn into, what radio active leaks can lead to, and the extent to which nuclear accidents can change life as we know it over night.

While we are working on solutions to the many serious problems posed by nuclear power, 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 rods in the water-filled pools. Before transferring these rods to cask storage, the cask storage units needs to be examined and reinforced to be able to safely store them, particularly those that qualify as particularly high risk. Hardened on-site storage casks, rigorously supervised and monitored ongoing, should become the norm for this fuel.

The long term sustainability of nuclear power, with so many dangers and with the technology of waste management still woefully inadequate, remains a valid question. The EIS needs to evaluate the true costs of nuclear power after the subsidies are stripped away. The long-term costs of decommissioning retired or defective power plants need to be considered as well, not to mention the costs of clean up, liability suits, and damage control in the event of a major accident. As these plants age, and as waste sites sit for decades, it may not be so much a question of "if" an accident happens, but when. The ongoing costs to US taxpayers should be transparent in this EIS.

Finally, the EIS should consider the option of not producing any nuclear waste at all in the future by comparing the environmental footprint of nuclear power, from mining to long term waste disposal, to that of renewables and energy efficiency.

Sincerely,

Lloyd Williams
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