

WCRM-GEIS1CEm Resource

From: Sierra Club [information@sierraclub.org] on behalf of Thomas Avogardo [theavogardos@inbox.com]
Sent: Monday, September 23, 2013 11:57 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.

Even though Nuclear power was supposed to be the most wonderful way of generating energy that man had ever found, it has proven to be a gross failure. Many of the plants have had to be shuttered due to problems and most of the existing plants are reaching their lifes end. Now the problem becomes, what do we do with the waste, whether solid or liquid.

Look what is happening in Japan and what happened at both 3 Mile Island and Chernobyl. Nuclear power is inherently dangerous and nothing can change that. Let's start using more solar and wind power and use natural sources like GeoThermal energy and Wave action energy collection. Instead of investing in these eco and human friendly technologies, we still insist on investing in technologies that are poisoning our world and killing us along the way.

Sincerely,

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