

WCRM-GEIS1CEm Resource

From: Sierra Club [information@sierraclub.org] on behalf of Peggy Chastain [sfowinelover@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, September 23, 2013 12:56 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, and the potential impact upon generations of Americans yet to be born. 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 and our ability to cover the costs of building and maintaining these plants and the subsequent costs of decommissioning. 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 creating any nuclear waste in the future by comparing the environmental footprint of nuclear from mining to long term waste disposal to that of renewables and energy efficiency. I would love to see a 21st century version of the Kennedy Space Program devoted to creating sustainable, non-hazardous power in our lifetime.

Sincerely,

Peggy Chastain
1250 Jones St
San Francisco, CA 94109-4261

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