

WCRM-GEIS1CEm Resource

From: Sierra Club [information@sierraclub.org] on behalf of Gerald Gardner [ggardner@umich.edu]
Sent: Monday, September 23, 2013 11:56 AM
To: RulemakingComments Resource
Subject: Protect our communities from radioactive waste!

Sep 23, 2013

Allison McFarlane

Dear McFarlane,

I am writing because I am concerned about how U.S. nuclear power plants store their spent radioactive fuel. No reactor should be licensed or re-licensed until it has been proven that its wastes can be successfully stored.

I am also concerned that many of our nuclear reactors have over-crowded fuel stored on-site, threatening the safety of surrounding communities. 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, that storage must ensure safe containment of fuel rods, particularly those that qualify as high burn up fuel. Hardened on-site storage of the casks should become the storage method of choice.

More generally, I am concerned about the sustainability of nuclear power. The EIS needs to evaluate the true costs of nuclear power after current subsidies as well as the long-term costs of decommissioning are stripped away. All ongoing costs to US taxpayers should be transparent in the EIS.

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

Sincerely,

Gerald Gardner
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Federal Register Notice: 78FR56775
Comment Number: 20183

Mail Envelope Properties (17108160.1379951786376.JavaMail.www)

Subject: Protect our communities from radioactive waste!
Sent Date: 9/23/2013 11:56:26 AM
Received Date: 9/24/2013 5:35:03 AM
From: Sierra Club

Created By: information@sierraclub.org

Recipients:
"RulemakingComments Resource" <RulemakingComments.Resource@nrc.gov>
Tracking Status: None

Post Office: app230

Files	Size	Date & Time
MESSAGE	1405	9/24/2013 5:35:03 AM

Options
Priority: Standard
Return Notification: No
Reply Requested: No
Sensitivity: Normal
Expiration Date:
Recipients Received: