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Waste Confidence Hearing

Public Comment on Waste Confidence Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement

Thursday, November 14, 2013 1:00-5:00PM

U.S. NRC Headquarters

I am here today on behalf of the Clean and Safe Energy Coalition, also known as CASEnergy. The CASEnergy Coalition is a national grassroots organization that supports the increased use of nuclear energy to ensure an environmentally clean, safe, affordable and reliable supply of electricity. Our members comprise a broad-based, diverse cross-section of individuals and organizations across the business, environmental, academic, consumer and labor communities- all in support of nuclear power.

The nuclear energy industry has built a comprehensive system using state-of-the-art technology to safely and securely contain the spent fuel it creates that keeps both the public and the environment safe. Spent nuclear fuel is currently being stored on-site at facilities in storage casks that are steel-lined with reinforced concrete walls. These are robust structures—for every 10 tons of used fuel, facilities use 100 tons of concrete and steel to form a structure designed to protect the fuel.

Over the last 30 years, nuclear energy facilities have safely and securely stored used fuel in these structures. American nuclear energy is also a highly regulated industry, with operating facilities subject to on-site inspections by NRC staff 24 hours a day, every day of the year.

Nuclear energy is a safe, reliable source of electricity and a valuable community partner—it provides nearly 20% of our electric power and supports more than 100,000 high-paying jobs. Because of nuclear energy's commitment to producing affordable, clean power, and its commitment to safely and securely storing spent fuel, it is no wonder why communities near nuclear facilities strongly support nuclear energy.

The timely resolution of this rulemaking is important for long-term power planning. This issue is directly affecting relicensing of nuclear plants and approval of pending construction applications for new reactors – which are vital if we are serious about our commitment to a reliable, safe and secure source of electricity.

Thank you for your time today.