

Rulemaking1CEm Resource

From: RulemakingComments Resource
Sent: Wednesday, November 20, 2013 1:37 PM
To: Rulemaking1CEm Resource
Subject: FW: Protect our communities from radioactive waste!

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TITLE: Waste Confidence—Continued Storage of Spent Nuclear Fuel
COMMENT#: 00212

-----Original Message-----

From: Sierra Club [<mailto:information@sierraclub.org>] On Behalf Of Appalled Doctor
Sent: Monday, September 23, 2013 1:57 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. 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.

In addition, 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.

Finally, I am living in St. Louis, MO, a city that has been contaminated by nuclear waste for seven decades. The Mallinckroft corporation took part in the Manhattan Project, and purified the uranium that was eventually used in the creation of Big Boy and Little Boy, the nuclear bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The nuclear waste left over from this purification process was stored in metal drums that rusted under the sun and weather in a parking lot north of Lambert Field airport for two decades before being buried in landfills across

the city, like West Lake Landfill. These landfills were not set up to retain nuclear waste; there are no concrete and lead bunkers for the material...just clay. These drums have been leaking for decades into the environment and a local stream, Cold Water Creek, that then empties into the Missouri River, eight miles upstream from the spot where St. Louis draws its drinking water supply. As a result, St. Louis has THE largest cancer cluster in the nation. Although the residents here in the city have tried to work with the EPA and with Republic Services, the owner-operator of the landfill, the nuclear waste remains in place with an underground landfill fire racing towards it. Within one year, we may have a dirty bomb situation in St. Louis.

I am appalled at the conditions here, and across the country. If we cannot use nuclear power in a safe manner, then we should not use it at all.

Sincerely,

Appalled Doctor
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