

Rulemaking1CEm Resource

From: RulemakingComments Resource
Sent: Wednesday, November 20, 2013 1:39 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#: 00215

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

From: Sierra Club [<mailto:information@sierraclub.org>] On Behalf Of Claire Garden
Sent: Monday, September 23, 2013 10:24 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, which I don't believe it can do. Nor should we transport this waste, endangering everyone on the route. Any place that lets a nuclear reactor be built should be prepared to store the waste safely forever on site. We should never subsidize nuclear power at any point. Better to shut all the reactors down and work on safer storage.

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.

It is obvious to me that nuclear power is not sustainable. It's the stupidest way anyone ever invented to boil water! And then have to cool the rods with whole rivers of water. 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.

Sincerely,

Claire Garden
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