

## Rulemaking1CEm Resource

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**From:** RulemakingComments Resource  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 20, 2013 1:43 PM  
**To:** Rulemaking1CEm Resource  
**Subject:** FW: Protect our communities from radioactive waste-there is no safe radioactive waste

**DOCKETED BY USNRC—OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
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**SECY DOCKET DATE:** 9/23/13  
**TITLE:** Waste Confidence—Continued Storage of Spent Nuclear Fuel  
**COMMENT#:** 00219

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

From: Sierra Club [<mailto:information@sierraclub.org>] On Behalf Of Kerry Nixon  
Sent: Monday, September 23, 2013 2:27 PM  
To: RulemakingComments Resource  
Subject: Protect our communities from radioactive waste-there is no safe 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. If we should even license/re-license them at all.

There is no safe or effective way to neutralize radioactive waste, it lasts for tens of thousands of years, polluting our essential resources and land for untold generations, and the toxic waste which is often mismanaged, is a NATIONAL SECURITY THREAT--as any terrorist (foreign or domestic) can use that material to make dirty bombs which would be devastating. SAY NO, to nuclear.

Nuclear is not the power source of the future. It is a source of potential catastrophe, depending on: human error, lack of proper safeguards, maintenance, and oversight, natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods and typhoons, and terrorism plots. Any and all of these are possibilities that should absolutely not be overlooked or dismissed. For the good of our country, our citizens, and future generations, we must decommission and safely shutdown aging nuclear plants that pose the highest risks in all of the aforementioned scenarios, and work to clean up and stop any leaks or environmental damages caused by the plants and their use.

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 further 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. Nuclear power is an extreme example of when private risk-taking is publicly funded, and any ensuing damages or disasters would likewise fall on the shoulders of the communities immediately affected and the larger public coffers funding any damage control. This is absolutely unacceptable.

I recommend the Energy Reader, an anthology of informative and academic writings on energy and society, edited by Laura Nader. This tome elucidates many of the complex issues surrounding energy production and would be a fantastic resource to utilize when considering energy policy.

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 throughout the production chain--from mining to long term waste disposal--to that of renewables and energy efficiency by design. These technologies already exist--and should be promoted, utilized and further developed. Let's make the United States the leader and envy of the world, by becoming the most sustainable, and sustainably profitable country in the world.

Imagine the possibilities: re-making our country to be efficient and ecologically sustainable is an enormous project that would generate countless jobs and billions of dollars. Many small start up companies are already innovating green product and service solutions-and this is a fast growing sector of the economy. Taking a stand on nuclear would send a clear message: the future has arrived, we will no longer stay the course with policies and technologies that are sending us into environmental disaster. Send the social and market signal that the time for green innovation and green bottom-lines, is here.

Sincerely,

Kerry Nixon  
4409 Sugarland Ct  
Concord, CA 94521-4308

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