

## WCRM-GEIS4CEm Resource

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**From:** Subrata Sircar [subrata\_sircar@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 22, 2013 5:20 PM  
**To:** RulemakingComments Resource  
**Subject:** Comment on Draft NUREG-2157 -- Docket NRC 210-0246 Waste Confidence Generic Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Secretary,

The NRC's "waste confidence" principle was properly struck down by a federal court because, some 60 years into the commercial atomic age, it is patently obvious that there is no roadmap to a solution for long-term radioactive waste storage that would attain three necessary and basic goals: scientifically-defensible, environmentally-responsible and publicly-acceptable.

Not only is there no long-term solution for atomic waste in hand or on the horizon, the shorter-term programs now in place are inadequate from a public safety standpoint, and do not offer the requisite confidence to allow continued generation of radioactive waste.

Nothing in the NRC's Draft NUREG-2157 changes these realities.

It is apparent that a thoughtful re-examination of the NRC's radioactive waste policies and priorities -which will take considerable time and effort - is in order.

This is not that document by a long spit.

The NRC is surely the only regulatory body in the world that would argue that indefinite-essentially permanent-storage of high-level radioactive waste in fuel pools and dry casks provides "confidence" that this waste will never cause a threat to public health and safety. By their very nature, neither casks nor fuel pools are designed for permanent storage.

Rather than insist on a robust waste management system intentionally designed to handle conceivable accidents whether through equipment failure, natural disasters, operator error or any other cause that could release radioactive materials to the environment, the NRC's draft document ultimately relies on the low probability of an accident to justify its position that reactor licensing and relicensing may resume.

Low probability is not a substitute for protection, as the world already has learned from Fukushima to Chernobyl to Bhopal and Love Canal.

In the interim, NRC must mandate the immediate movement of waste that has been sufficiently cooled out of the pools to dry storage containers, and those should be hardened on-site (HOSS) to improve safety and security.

Subrata Sircar

CA

**Federal Register Notice:** 78FR56775  
**Comment Number:** 2389

**Mail Envelope Properties** (557493437.76569.1385158796924.JavaMail.tomcat)

**Subject:** Comment on Draft NUREG-2157 -- Docket NRC 210-0246 Waste Confidence  
Generic Environmental Impact Statement  
**Sent Date:** 11/22/2013 5:19:56 PM  
**Received Date:** 11/22/2013 5:19:57 PM  
**From:** Subrata Sircar

**Created By:** subrata\_sircar@yahoo.com

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

**Post Office:** vweb68.salsalabs.net

<b>Files</b>	<b>Size</b>	<b>Date &amp; Time</b>
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