

Rulemaking1CEM Resource

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TITLE: Waste Confidence—Continued Storage of Spent Nuclear Fuel

COMMENT#: 00688

From: Steve Scarff [<mailto:sscarff@centurylink.net>]
Sent: Friday, December 20, 2013 5:19 PM
To: RulemakingComments Resource
Subject: Docket ID No. NRC-2012-0246

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on NRC's waste confidence Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement (DGEIS). I have been an observer of the nuclear industry for more than forty years. I lived in Iowa when its first nuclear plant was built near Cedar Rapids. Also in the 1970s I wrote an informational document for a non-profit group on the theory of the Liquid Metal Fast Breeder Reactor.

I believe the DGEIS should be withdrawn and totally revised. I have NO confidence in it!

It is unethical and immoral for our government to allow the continued creation of deadly wastes, some of which will be dangerous for nearly a million years. We have no technology for making these wastes safe; indeed, such a technology may well prove impossible. If so, these wastes must be isolated from the biosphere virtually in perpetuity. This is an impossible task for fallible humans, so we can only expect more and more radioactive poisoning of the earth. "Hope" is not a strategy! We already have more radioactive waste than we can deal with, and our nuclear reactors keep creating more. Therefore, NRC must shut down all reactors soon as possible, and not license or build any more. The electricity we currently generate by nuclear power can be replaced by the existing technology of efficiency and renewables, without the risks of relying on dirty, dangerous, and expensive nuclear power.

For the high level wastes that already exist, NRC should require Hardened On-Site Storage (HOSS). Hundreds of environmental and public interest groups, representing all 50 states, have endorsed the Statement of Principles for Safeguarding Nuclear Waste at Reactors, which describes HOSS. High level wastes currently in risky and vulnerable storage pools should be transferred as soon as possible into on-site dry cask storage that is "hardened": designed and built well, safeguarded against accidents, fortified against attacks, and protected against leakage into the environment. This should be a top national security top priority. Obviously locations vulnerable to flooding would not be suitable for HOSS, but nearby suitable nearby sites should be identified so transportation of such wastes can be minimized and accomplished as safely as possible. Also, HOSS must be monitored and not allowed to leak, especially into fresh water sources, including ground water.

Also, consolidated storage is a bad idea. We don't need a bunch "temporary" storage sites around the country, with their associated transportation risks. These risks would be even greater for "centralized interim storage".

The safe storage and perpetual vigilance of high level nuclear waste is a grave matter that must be addressed seriously with a care for the distant future, and not by people with the attitude of "You'll be gone and I'll be gone."

Sincerely,

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