

## RulemakingForm2CEm Resource

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**From:** Bobby Greg [bobbygreg@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 17, 2015 11:20 PM  
**To:** RulemakingComments Resource  
**Subject:** [External\_Sender] Radioactive Waste Disposal 10 CFR61 Docket ID NRC-2011-0012

Dear Secretary,

I oppose the proposed 10 CFR 61 changes and ask NRC to make changes in the direction of greater isolation of waste. Radioactive releases and exposure to humans and other species must be prevented, not increased.

I especially reject and ask that you remove the following provisions in your proposal:

No deregulation of radioactive waste waste:

Remove all provisions that would allow nuclear waste to go to regular trash or other unregulated places or into commercial recycling into consumer goods. This approach has been consistently rejected by the American public and explicitly by Congress in the 1992 Energy Policy Act. Delete the existing "§ 61.6 Exemptions" and the proposed addition to "§61.7 Concepts" that would allow deregulating, exempting and releasing radioactive waste and materials from radioactive regulatory control.

No increase in radiation to the public:

Reduce radiation releases: the goal should be to prevent all releases. Reject the proposed change from the current allowable public dose of 25 millirems/year to the higher 25 millirems EDE, 100 millirems EDE, 500 millirems EDE or even more per year.

No "black box" Performance Assessments by dump operators:

Remove all provisions that would allow dump operators to do their own "Performance Assessments" and make "Safety Cases" to claim they can put more kinds of radioactive waste and longer-lasting nuclear waste in shallow land burial trenches. This presents an obvious conflict-of-interest issue, as operators would have a vested interest in a favorable outcome of such assessments.

No preemption of state's authority:

Allow states to continue setting stricter, more protective standards than NRC. Remove the "Level B" compatibility requirement.

Radioactive materials hazardous for 100 years or more should be kept out of burial grounds. Simply labeling various time periods (compliance, performance, protective assurance, etc) and assigning increasing allowable doses does not protect anyone--it simply makes it legal to pollute.

Now do you know that carbon monoxide poisoning can result from uranium? And make people go to sleep and suffer brain damage? Read the following, and then tighten up your standards - or ban all nuclear . .

Situation Update No. 7

Kazakhstan - Biological Hazard on 2014-12-17 at 04:37:58

Ref: BH-20141217-46355-KAZ

Situation Update No. 7

On 2015-07-17 at 17:20:56 [UTC]

Event: Biological Hazard

Location: Kazakhstan State of Aqmola Kalachi

<b>Situation</b>

Scientists have discovered the cause of a strange sleeping sickness affecting residents of two villages in northern Kazakhstan, the government has said. Since March 2013, the mysterious illness has affected more than 140 people in Kalachi and Krasnogorsk, dusty settlements in the huge Kazakh steppe, with a total population of 810 people, mostly ethnic Russians and Germans. Villagers would fall asleep suddenly, even while walking, and wake up with memory loss, grogginess, weakness and headaches. Some fell victim more than half a dozen times, with sufferers sleeping for up to six days at a time. "The sick person appears to be conscious and can even walk. But all the same he then falls into a deep sleep and snores, and when they wake him up ... the person remembers absolutely nothing," the newspaper Komsomolskaya Pravda reported after a 2014 investigation. The sickness would affect both old and young, with children dropping off at school. Some reported nightmarish hallucinations: local children Rudolf Boyarinos and Misha Plyukhin told Komsomolskaya Pravda they saw winged horses, snakes in their beds and worms eating their hands. Even household pets were not immune. Kalachi resident Yelena Zhavoronkova told the newspaper Vremya that her cat Marquis suddenly "went stupid" on a Friday night and began meowing and attacking walls, furniture and the family dog. "He fell asleep toward morning and snored like a human until lunchtime on Saturday. He didn't react to anything, not even cat food," Zhavoronkova said. Doctors tested Marquis and other sufferers, but the mysterious illness defied all explanation. At first they thought the patients were suffering the after-effects of counterfeit vodka, but as the epidemic grew they began diagnosing people with "encephalopathy of an unknown origin", a generic term for brain illnesses, Interfax reported. Many suspected the nearby uranium mines that had been shuttered after the fall of the Soviet Union, leaving Krasnogorsk a ghost town with only 130 of its former 6,500 residents. Kazakhstan's health ministry tested more than 7,000 nearby homes but didn't find significantly high levels of radiation or of heavy metals and their salts. It detected raised radium levels in some homes, but it was not enough to explain the phenomenon. Even sleep disorder experts could not find a cause. One somnologist told Komsomolskaya Pravda in 2014 that the two isolated villages were most likely suffering from a case of mass psychosis similar to the "Bin Laden itch", a psychosomatic rash that afflicted children in the US as fears of terrorist attacks peaked in 2002. Now the mystery has at last been solved and the cause does indeed lie in the uranium mines, said Kazakhstan's deputy PM, Berdibek Saparbaev. After analysing the results of medical examinations of all the residents, researchers concluded that it was caused by heightened levels of carbon monoxide and hydrocarbons in the air. "The uranium mines were closed at some point, and at times a concentration of carbon monoxide occurs there," Saparbaev said. "The oxygen in the air is reduced accordingly, which is the real reason for the sleeping sickness in these villages." Evacuation of the two villages has begun, with authorities reportedly relocating 68 of 223 families so far.

RSOE Emergency and Disaster Information Service (EDIS)

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