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From: RulemakingComments Resource
Sent: Wednesday, November 25, 2015 8:46 AM
To: Rulemaking1CEm Resource
Subject: Comment on PRM-20-28, PRM-20-29, and PRM-20-30
Attachments: NRC-2015-0057-DRAFT-0543.pdf

DOCKETED BY USNRC—OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

SECY-067

PR#: PRM-20-28, PRM-20-29, and PRM-20-30

FRN#: 80FR35870

NRC DOCKET#: NRC-2015-0057

SECY DOCKET DATE: 11/18/15

TITLE: Linear No-Threshold Model and Standards for Protection Against Radiation

COMMENT#: 594

Hearing Identifier: Secy_RuleMaking_comments_Public
Email Number: 1403

Mail Envelope Properties (d928f43d329c4b7a88a8cb3821e3b193)

Subject: Comment on PRM-20-28, PRM-20-29, and PRM-20-30
Sent Date: 11/25/2015 8:46:03 AM
Received Date: 11/25/2015 8:46:10 AM
From: RulemakingComments Resource

Created By: RulemakingComments.Resource@nrc.gov

Recipients:
"Rulemaking1CEM Resource" <Rulemaking1CEM.Resource@nrc.gov>
Tracking Status: None

Post Office: HQPWMSMRS02.nrc.gov

Files	Size	Date & Time
MESSAGE	298	11/25/2015 8:46:10 AM
NRC-2015-0057-DRAFT-0543.pdf		66223

Options
Priority: Standard
Return Notification: No
Reply Requested: No
Sensitivity: Normal
Expiration Date:
Recipients Received:

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: 11/23/15 2:15 PM
Received: November 18, 2015
Status: Pending_Post
Tracking No. 1jz-8mc1-50sf
Comments Due: November 19, 2015
Submission Type: Web

Docket: NRC-2015-0057

Linear No-Threshold Model and Standards for Protection Against Radiation

Comment On: NRC-2015-0057-0086

Linear No-Threshold Model and Standards for Protection Against Radiation; Extension of Comment Period

Document: NRC-2015-0057-DRAFT-0543

Comment on FR Doc # 2015-20722

Submitter Information

Name: Don Kelley

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General Comment

Regarding Docket ID NRC-2015-0057:

As a pathologist familiar with radiation effects on human health, I see little point in changing the Linear No Threshold standard for human radiation exposure. The cumulative nature of radiation effects speaks to the enabling influence of small doses in creating delayed consequences. Despite some animal studies suggesting the operation of hormesis in certain models, the evidence of such effects in humans seems unconvincing to me.

I find the most ardent advocates of the hormesis hypothesis among those promoting greater adoption of nuclear energy for electricity generation, etc.. The Precautionary Principle, plus the fact that renewable sources of energy are readily exploitable and can obviate any need for nuclear energy, make me believe that liberalization of nuclear safety standards is unwise.

Thank you.