

Rulemaking1CEm Resource

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To: Rulemaking1CEm Resource
Subject: Comment on PRM-20-28, 20-29 & 20-30
Attachments: Comment 634 - Griffin.pdf

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SECY DOCKET DATE: 11/19/15

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

COMMENT#: 634

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RULES REGULATORY COMMISSION

2015 NOV 27 PM 3:16

November 4, 2015

Syd Griffin

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RECEIVED

Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Washington, DC, 20555

re: NRC-2015-0057

Dear Commission Members and Staff,

I am writing to register my opposition to any increase in acceptable levels of exposure to radioactive material, in particular as it relates to cleanup and safe practice at the Brookhaven National Laboratory in Suffolk County, NY.

I am a 49 year old father of two teenage children living in Hampton Bays, NY. We regularly enjoy swimming in nearby Little Peconic Bay and have done so for over 15 years. If you haven't had the chance I highly recommend you come and try it sometime! The waters are beautifully refreshing and the beaches are lovely. Just don't tell too many people (I kid - I think the secret may be out about the Hamptons).

Before settling here to raise my family I lived most of my life a bit east of here in East Hampton near Northwest Bay. I spent much of my childhood and youth swimming in that body of water. I recall being shocked to hear sometime in the nineteen eighties (or possibly nineties) that Peconic Bay was considered to be one of the most highly radioactive bodies of water in the country, due to it's proximity to the Brookhaven Lab nuclear reactor. That caused me great anxiety. I rationalized at the time that the water I swam in, while possibly contaminated was likely less so than the waters west of there, due to the geography which make the Peconic Bays less able to flush with ocean water.

I admit that I am not a scientist and have not read any research that supports the claim of radioactivity in the Peconic Bay system. I am, however, a concerned citizen and it is easy for me to believe this claim, simply by looking at a map and recalling the many reported stories over the decades of radiation leaks at the lab. Some of which went on for years without detection! So it was with a definite sense of unease that I began taking my children, from their earliest days, to the local bay beach so they could enjoy this tremendous natural resource and to instill in them the same lifelong Love that I feel for our local waterways. My worry has abated over the past twenty or so years by the feeling that the contamination problems at the lab had been exposed and were being eliminated and remediated, allowing me to feel comfortable enjoying the natural splendor of this area with my children.

It is for these reasons I felt it necessary to write. While I do not know the technical details of any change in regulations you may be considering, merely hearing that they may be relaxed in favor of allowing a higher level of human caused radiation into our environment sends a shudder of fear through me. I feel that such a change would have an undeniable negative health effect directly related to the natural environment that I and my family are intimately a part of. One that I hope future generations will be able to enjoy also, free of fear that their long term health will be sacrificed on the altar of pragmatism and cost benefit ratios. I cannot conceive that any excess radiation in the environment could be good for any person or ecological system. Except for those people charged with keeping these dangerous materials managed, by allowing them a little more leeway for "oops" moments, or less stringent and costly standards by which to perform.

I urge you in the strongest way possible to maintain or better yet reduce the acceptable exposure limits to the public of radioactive materials.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Syd Griffin', with a small dot at the end of the line.

Syd Griffin

Hampton Bays, NY