

Rulemaking1CEm Resource

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Subject: Comment on ANPR-26, 50, 52, 73, and 140 - Regulatory Improvements for Decommissioning
Attachments: Comment from Williams.pdf

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FRN#: 80FR72358

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Docket: NRC-2015-0070

Regulatory Improvements for Power Reactors Transitioning to Decommissioning

Comment On: NRC-2015-0070-0007

Regulatory Improvements for Decommissioning Power Reactors; Extension of Comment Period

Document: NRC-2015-0070-DRAFT-0123

Comment on FR Doc # 2015-32599

Submitter Information

Name: Mary Jane Williams

General Comment

Re: Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking: Regulatory Improvements for Decommissioning Power Reactors, Docket ID NRC-2015-0070

All nuclear plants will become de facto nuclear waste storage sites for the foreseeable future. Neither the NRC nor the nuclear plant owners planned for this to happen. It has happened.

Your job has changed. It's no longer just to oversee working reactors, in the case of the NRC, or to make money from generating electricity, it's now to guard high level nuclear waste. Not just for the next 20 years. Forever. Because it's entirely possible there will never be any place else to put the waste.

1. Above all else the nuclear waste must be kept contained. Forever.

If there are already cracks in a canister, or if the canister is thin walled, or of a type that has a history of cracking -- EVER - any place in the world, and not just for the the next 20 years, somehow a new canister must be built surrounding the leaking/dangerous one. Immediately.

Such envelope style "over canisters" should be designed and constructed now before they're needed. Have them ready to install. NRC should require them.

Owners of the nuclear plants must pay for these over-canisters. Sorry. There's no one else. If it means you go bankrupt paying for it, well, that's capitalism for you. Do the honorable thing. You made the waste. You pay to keep the waste from leaking.

2. Constant radiation monitoring must take place and the public be advised of elevated levels. Immediately!
3. Constant military style guarding should take place, to prevent terrorist acts against the canisters.

Owners of nuclear plants should pay for this. Again. You made the waste. You pay to guard it. Unexpected cost of doing business, sure. Next time invest in safer technology.

4. The NRC should maintain an inspector onsite at all times to make sure the 3 points above are observed. i.e. constantly look for cracks, monitor radiation, and make sure there are military type guards watching over the entire site.

5. I'm told the current nuclear fuel pools should be kept, as places where damaged fuel could be dealt with temporarily. Sounds like a no-brainer. Please keep them. In fact, build some new ones, at ground level or possibly underground. Those several stories in the air should be replaced.

And what about earthquakes, wars, natural disasters of all kinds? The NRC has to remain hands on, through all catastrophes. Watching over those canisters, monitoring radiation, watching over evacuations.

Again, not the jobs you thought you were hired to do. But you're the only ones we've got to do them. Please don't retreat into narrow bureaucratic thinking. Suddenly your responsibility is huge. As were the risks of the whole misguided nuclear era. You guys loved nuclear. Now please help humanity deal with the waste.