

**From:** [Dave Radford](#)  
**To:** [RulemakingComments\\_Resource](#)  
**Subject:** [External\_Sender] SMR  
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Dear NRC, I am writing a few comments about the need for the Small Modular Reactor (SMR) that are being proposed at INL just west of Bonneville county. I am a 15 year elected county commissioner of this county and an active participant in public affairs here in eastern Idaho for over 30 years. I also have raised my family of four here in eastern Idaho and now my wife of 39 years and I have 12 grandchildren. We have been neighbors of the nuclear activities for all that time and it has been an important part of the success of our area. I have read the white paper and the December 17<sup>th</sup> 2014 emergency document and would like to make a few positive comments about these proposed plans.

The need is well documented for more grid power. A looming shortage of energy is in our country's future if steps aren't taken like the development of new nuclear power for the grid. It appears to me that the SMR are a great science based approach to solving our future energy needs. As the first developed country that invented nuclear technology we need more energy from this source not less. It is frustrating to me to know that France has more nuclear on their grid percentage wise than the country that developed nuclear, us.

Public health and safety is a local elected official duty of county commissioners and the fact that SMR's are safer because of increased safety margins is a huge argument to pursue their build out. I welcome the reduced risks to our public. Our county population is fourth largest in the state of the 44 counties. With over 110,000 people the smaller and slower fission reactors are a needed safety approach. The reduced plume release exposure risks together with the longer emergency response time gained by these reactors should be more promoted by the environmental community. I know and feel any reduced risk in an evacuation situation would be welcome by any elected official.

Another benefit of these light water SMR's is the more limited need for water in their operation. We now are metering water here in eastern Idaho sometimes in cities and areas that we didn't think would ever happen. Times are changing even in Idaho as the great science available to keep reactors cooler quicker and with less water has got to be the needed wave of the future.

In closing the improved infrastructure, a consolidated safer regulatory process, reduced health risks to our public, and larger safety margins should win out in the debate about the SMR projects here in eastern Idaho. The improved EPZ created by SMR's will be a welcome outcome. Thanks for allowing this comment period and thanks for the invitation to offer input.

Sincerely, Dave Radford Bonneville County Commissioner