

From: [Stephanie Walsh](#)
To: [RulemakingComments.Resource](#)
Subject: [External_Sender] Docket ID NRC-2015-0225 - Public Comment Letter
Date: Wednesday, June 28, 2017 1:27:01 AM
Attachments: [NRC EPZ Rule Change Letter.docx](#)

NRC Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff,

Attached please find my letter in response to your request for public comment on Docket ID NRC-2015-0225. Thank you for the opportunity to comment, and I hope that my letter of support is helpful in your decision-making process.

Best Regards,

Stephanie Walsh

Stephanie Walsh
Idaho Falls, ID
June 27, 2017

Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-001

SUBJECT: Docket ID NRC-2015-0225

Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff,

I'm writing in support of the proposed rule changes for the Draft Regulatory Basis for "Rulemaking for Emergency Preparedness for Small Modular Reactors and Other New Technologies", Docket ID NRC-2015-0225.

The emergence of new designs for Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) and other new technologies warrant a careful and thorough reevaluation of the Emergency Preparedness Zone (EPZ) Rules. The existing rules for protection of the public are appropriate measures for traditional reactor technologies. However, these rules do not reflect the reduced risks of the new emerging reactor technologies. In order to take advantage of the new safety features, especially passive shutdown of SMRs, this emerging industry will require proper consideration of risks in defining EPZs, which the current proposed rule changes address.

It is important that the US modernizes our regulations to match the risks of nuclear technology. Reducing EPZ requirements to match the risks of SMRs, while still maintaining our standards of protecting the public and the environment, is important to this industry's success. SMRs are being invented and designed in the United States, and will play an important role in our economy, our leadership in the world, and in providing a clean, affordable source of power that addresses the growing issue of climate change.

A Small Modular Reactor is currently planned for eastern Idaho. As a native and resident of this area, I urge the NRC to adopt the recommendations of the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) for appropriate reductions in EPZ that consider both our safety, and the advancement of this important technology.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Walsh