

83FR06475
PR-61

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: 4/16/18 9:58 AM
Received: April 15, 2018
Status: Pending_Post
Tracking No. 1k2-92m0-2y74
Comments Due: April 16, 2018
Submission Type: Web

Docket: NRC-2017-0081
Greater-Than-Class C and Transuranic Waste

Comment On: NRC-2017-0081-0001
Disposal of Greater-than-Class C and Transuranic Waste; Public Meeting

Document: NRC-2017-0081-DRAFT-0007
Comment on FR Doc # 2018-03085

Submitter Information

Name: christopher lanz

General Comment

Disposal of Greater-than-Class C and Transuranic Waste.

My name is Christopher Lanz and currently attending Humboldt State as a declared Environmental Science with an emphasis in Geospatial Science. Today Im writing because of the proposed action refers to an optimal process thats better for the environment. Handling LLRW has been much needed and unfortunately there hasnt been a facility to properly handle the LLRW, all except for one being within New Mexico. Low Level radiation waste (LLRW) contains concentrations of radionuclides which exceed the commisions limitations to these. As stated Transuranic deserves a site to be properly disposed of seeing that its a byproduct of the manufacturing of nuclear weapons.

For some background the EPA originally promulgated a set of standards in 1985 for transuranic wastes titled Environmental Radiation Protection Standards for Management and Disposal of Spent Nuclear Fuel and Transuranic Radioactive Wastes (40 CFR Part 191). Within the document SubpartA refers to the limiting of radiation exposure to the public, Subpart B states the containment calls for disposal systems to limit the amount of radioactivity that could enter the environment in 10,00 years, and SubpartC maintains

groundwater protection requirements for 10,000 years after waste disposal along with the regulated level of containment for radionuclides allowed in the water. Moreover there are measure in place to contain radiation despite the continual production of nuclear energy or weapons.

Transuranic waste consists of the elements that are artificially made i.e. petunium, plutonium, americium, and other atomic numbers higher than that of uraniums atomic numbers(NRC). These products that come into to contact with nuclear waste such as gloves, rags, and machinery used in the development of nuclear energy or weapons are referred to as Transuranic Waste(Weeks 2011). There are only a handful of facilities that manage the handling and disposal of Transuranic wastes in the world.

Single repositories are hard to come by but until recently only one has existed in New Mexico. The only existing repository for the disposing of Transuranic waste from military programs is the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant(WIPP) in Carlsbad, NM. The WIPP facility regularly receives processed and treated transuranic waste coming from the Department of Energys processing Center in Oak Ridge, Tennessee (World Nuclear News), and is to store nuclear waste up to 10,000 years(EPA). WIPPs however, hasnt received fully processed and treated transuranic waste since 2012 due to a underground truck accident and and radiological event that both took place in the summer of 2014(World Nuclear News). These proposal has backed up the need to dispose of these radioactive materials immediately. The DOE and WIPP facility took action into resuming scheduling between Oak Ridge, TN and Carlsbad, NM, taking place January of 2017 scheduled to received 128 shipments by January 2018(World Nuclear News). Essentially there is a need to find a means to properly dispose of these materials and this proposal offers a viable solution for the Transuranic waste.

Considering it wasnt until 1988 that the LLRW wasnt included in the 61.2 definition of the LLRW in the Nuclear Regulatory Commision which gave indication to the removal of such radioactive materials. Some materials are low level(NRC), nonetheless it presents a hazard due to exposure of radiation long term. With there gain only one facility that handles this alone the disposal of Transuranic waste the proposal to dispose of them to a surface repository is of utmost importance and is better for the environment and the future.

Citations:

Transuranic waste. (2017, April 10). Retrieved from <https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/basic-ref/glossary/transuranic-waste>.

Disposal of Greater-than-Class-C and Transuranic Waste; Public Meeting.(2018,February 14). Retrieved March 01, 2018, from <http://www.regulations.gov>. Federal Register Number. 2018-03085.

Oak Ridge Ships First TRU Waste Since 2012. (2017, August 15). Retrieved March 1, 2018, from <http://www.world-nuclear-news.org>

Weeks, Jennifer. (2011). Nuclear Waste Buried for the Ages in New Mexico Desert. CQ Researcher 21.4. 84-85. Print