

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: 5/23/18 12:40 PM
Received: May 15, 2018
Status: Pending Post
Tracking No. 1k2-9362-bu9i
Comments Due: May 15, 2018
Submission Type: Web

Docket: NRC-2018-0026
Very Low-Level Radioactive Waste Scoping Study

Comment On: NRC-2018-0026-0001
Very Low-Level Radioactive Waste Scoping Study

Document: NRC-2018-0026-DRAFT-0037
Comment on FR Doc # 2018-03083

SUNSI Review Complete
Template = ADM-013
E-RIDS=ADM-03
ADD= Kellee Jamerson

Submitter Information

Name: Tami Thatcher
Address:
10217 S. 5th W.
Idaho Falls, ID, 83404
Email: tzt@srv.net
Organization: Country Place Massage

COMMENT (#37)
PUBICATION DATE:
2/14/2018
CITATION # 83 FR 6619

General Comment

Docket NRC-2018-0026-0001 VERY LARGE LOOPHOLE WASTE

In the past, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission has allowed, via 10 CFR 20.2002, to disposal of radioactive materials at dumps permitted under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). This allowed a very small number of individuals who could easily buy off state officials and legislators like in the great state of Idaho, to make millions of dollars to disposal of radioactive waste at facilities not licensed as low-level radioactive waste dumps.

But, with lax monitoring in the State of Idaho, the contamination of air and water with radioactivity allows everything radioactive to get in citizens air and water and soil. Even if a citizen is aware of the contamination, he or she certainly wont have a clue where it came from.

Hazardous waste dumps that accept radioactive waste that will be released via air and water to unsuspecting citizens is a very profitable business.

Now the NRC wants to rein in costs to the nuclear industry. The plus side is one or two fewer millionaires in states like Idaho, Texas or New Mexico, who own hazardous waste dumps who would like getting paid millions to dump uranium and other radioactive waste.

But the negative side of transporting, dumping, and failing to properly manage the impossible task of confining the radioactive waste is that people get more cancer, leukemia, and other illness, often leading to death and financial ruin.

Oh, and the genetic effects. The NRC forgets about the genetic effects. But the children and grandchildren of these poisoned people will suffer disease and premature death because of the genetic effects of their ancestors radiation exposures.

The Very Large Loophole Waste that NRC likes to call very low-level waste will likely include lots and lots of alpha and beta emitters such as uranium and plutonium. These wastes can have half lives beyond the number of years that the owner of the dump and the NRC staff pretending to act as responsible adults, retire and die.

The half life of uranium-238 is 4.5 billion years; U-235 half life is 700 million years; and U-233 which is man-made has a half-life of only 160,000 years. The half-life of plutonium-239 is a mere 24,000 years. Oh, but wait Pu-239 decays to U-235. (And really somebody ought to tell people who work for the Department of Energy that, because according to various cleanup documents, the Department of Energy seems to think that the half life of anything is no greater than 24,000 years.) And while were at it, those cute smoke alarms using Americium-241, with a half life of 430 years, Am-241 decays to neptunium-237. By the way, Np-237 has a half life of 2.1 million years and it decays to U-233.

But, causing disease to current and future generations is all A.O.K. with the NRC. The NRC doesn't know just how much disease it actually causes! That might be because the NRC refuses to perform scientifically credible human epidemiology near its nuclear facilities.

The NRC refuses to acknowledge that its official radiation health models underestimate the health risk and harm of ionizing radiation.

Consider external radiation to be underestimated by only, perhaps a factor of 2 to 5. That is, unless you are a child or female.

Consider the health risk of internal inhaled or ingested radionuclides to be underestimated by only a few thousand-fold. What is a few thousand-fold increase in cancer risk to some unsuspecting citizens anyway? And consider the genetic effects to be ignored. Again these are not tracked by the NRC.

So, the NRC considers uranium and its decay progeny, and unmonitored amounts of basically any and all other radioactive waste to be something it should allow unfettered disposal of in any old landfill.

Im already breathing plutonium, americium, depleted uranium and more from my neighborhood Department of Energy site. And all this stuff is already in my drinking water. And I was breathing in radionuclides and working in a high external background radiation site when I worked at the DOE site.

Perhaps giving the Department of Energy and state environmental monitoring programs more scape goats is good. Instead of blaming the fertilizer plant for the elevated air-borne gross alpha levels, they can now blame every municipal landfill in every county for elevated air-borne radioactive emissions.

Sadly, the NRC cannot be counted on to create laws that protect anything except the nuclear industry.

And sadly, people too numerous to count will suffer and die as the result of the techno-jargon the NRC is going to use to devise a way to release more radionuclides to the environment that will cause far more harm than their long-discredited radiation health models will predict.