

5/22/18

NRC - 2018 - 0052

To: Nuclear Regulatory Commission, May 22, 2018
Public meeting, Crown Plaza, 19901 University Blvd. NW, Albq., NM

SUNSI Review Complete
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ADD= Antoinette Walker-Smith, Jill
Caverly (JSC1)

From: a concerned citizen, Carol Merrill

I am Carol Merrill, a retired librarian and teacher from North Valley Albuquerque area. I am a published author, and a member of CARD, Citizens for Alternatives to Radioactive Dumping.. Thank you for opening a meeting for public comment about this issue of highly toxic nuclear waste here in Albuquerque.

I speak first for one who cannot come to the microphone because she is in her mid nineties, Dorie Bunting. Dorie was a founder of CARD. She is one of the group of people who stood on the highway in the middle of the night in front of the first shipment of low level nuke waste to the WIPP site. She knew the high level waste would follow someday. On Sunday I asked her how she felt about this threat of high level nuclear waste from nuclear power plants going across country on trains to southern New Mexico. Her answer was, "Outrage! Outrage! Why generate electricity for people that way? When all the people are dead from nuclear poisoning, who will they generate it for?"

One of my greatest concern is that it was reported by San Diego Union-Tribune Thursday, May 10, 2018, that there was a loose bolt inside one of the Holtec's canisters designed to store spent radioactive fuel at the waterfront site of San Onofre nuclear power plant, which halted work for 10 days. Looks like there are some serious problems with Holtec's engineering. Are these the canisters they are threatening to send across the country through heavily populated areas? The trust is broken with that one loose bolt.

The spent fuel rods are from power plants located mostly on the east coast, so we do not even receive benefit from the electricity that was generated. If the nuclear waste is so safe for us here, why don't the people around the nuclear power plants keep it there?

The best solution is to leave high level nuclear waste near where it was generated. It is important to have effective sealed storage on-site where it is now, without exposing millions of people along railroads to deadly toxic radioactive waste in ineffective canisters. There were 7 serious rail accidents in the last year in New Mexico. That is 7 too many.

One additional concern: If there would be a serious accident, for example, a derailment in a heavily populated urban area with a breach of the seal on the canister necessitating a mass evacuation with an area becoming uninhabitable for a long long time, who would be liable? Who is insuring this company? Clean up could cost billions. Is Holtec willing to be responsible should an accident occur? It is my understanding their contract is for only 40 years. If they are not liable, how can we as citizens expect them to invest in an effective canister?

One other thought is that a small bomb from a drone on a centralized surface location of plutonium rods could wipe out half of the state if plutonium was suddenly exposed to oxygen and explodes.

For our energy concerns in this great nation it is time to employ our natural genius to find more elegant, safe generators using wind, sun, water, tides, solar, and geothermal for starters. Thank you for listening to my concerns,

Carol Merrill

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COMMENT (176)
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(over)

The Puppies of Chernobyl

In the exclusion zone at Chernobyl

Where radioactive wasted atoms

Melted down decades ago;

Now free of humans for 20,000 years

When it will be safe again

There are maybe 900 wild dogs of those

Left behind by their families 31 years ago

Playful puppies play around the cantina

Near reactor 4

The sign for tourists reads,

“Don’t touch the puppies!

There are radioactive particles

In their fur.”

They have never had a toy

No one has cuddled them

What’s to become of them?

Someday will we put lead lined sweaters

On our dogs in winter just to take them for a walk

If it comes to that with nuclear wasted world?

C.S. Merrill

May 22, 2017

North Valley Albuquerque, New Mexico