

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: 7/24/18 10:41 AM
Received: July 21, 2018
Status: Pending_Post
Tracking No. 1k2-94ep-5ek3
Comments Due: July 23, 2018
Submission Type: Web

Docket: NRC-2018-0109

Draft Letter to the Nuclear Energy Institute Regarding the Clarification of Regulatory Paths for Lead Test Assemblies

Comment On: NRC-2018-0109-0002

Draft Letter to Nuclear Energy Institute Regarding Clarification of Regulatory Paths for Lead Test Assemblies

Document: NRC-2018-0109-DRAFT-0171

Comment on FR Doc # 2018-14121

Submitter Information

Name: John Szalasny

SUNSI Review Complete
Template = ADM-013
E-RIDS=ADM-03
ADD= Sihan Ding, Kimberly
Green & Janet Burkhardt

General Comment

COMMENT (182)
PUBLICATION DATE: 6/7/2018
CITATION # 83 FR 26503

As I understand, the NRC is proposing to set aside federal regulations and deprive members of the public their legal rights by using a letter to the Nuclear Energy Institute to permit nuclear plant owners to experiment with new fuel pellets and fuel rods in the nuclear power reactors in your backyards without prior NRC review and approval, and without your getting a chance to agree or disagree with the experiment. Allowing any for-profit industry to police itself is like having the fox watch over the hen house. Without the ability to review and police the nuclear industry, what are today's experiments in new fuel designs (euphemistically called Accident Tolerant Fuels) can become tomorrow's disasters - all in the cause of saving money for the owners of the plant. Power plants should be regulated for the public good, and any procedural changes (such as new fuel mixes) need to be vetted through rigorous testing and post reviews. Abdicating your role in this vetting and allowing financial concerns to be more important than scientific review and public safety is not the mission of the Nuclear REGULATORY Commission.

We have more than enough issues with our nuclear legacy. I live miles away from the West Valley Demonstration Project in Western New York. This facility has proven to be an ill-disguised attempt to find a place to store the toxic legacy of the first 30 years of nuclear power. We are fighting to have this site cleared of nuclear wastes, including those that have leached into the soils and are in danger of being washed away on loose, unstable alluvial soils. Increasing the chances for more unstable wastes with these Accident Tolerant Fuels, creates risks for the next West Valley (or Savannah River, etc) that comes up on the federal radar.

Nuclear power is not going away soon. I am asking that any changes that are done to regulate the industry be done through the NRC (as it has for over 40 years), and not through the industry.