

WCS_CISFEISCEm Resource

From: Elmer Fudzie <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 10, 2018 12:43 AM
To: WCS_CISFEIS Resource
Subject: [External_Sender] NRC-2016-0231; Docket # 72-1050

May Ma ,

Spent fuel rods have been immersed in, on site, cooling ponds waiting for a final repository. All the ponds, across the USA, have reached their capacity limit and now, the spent rods must, be moved to final burial. The industry has no option here and the NRC, no say in the matter. We all know the expression, you can't fit six pounds of potatoes in a five pound bag. By this I mean, the temporary pools are at full capacity, and do indeed overheat at times due to excessive neutron activity (temporarily attenuated) by adding soluble boron into the pools (an industry no-no) but it's done anyway..

The bulk transportation of low and medium level wastes cannot be significantly reduced however there are novel ways to reduce the quantity of high level waste destined for permanent storage. The process of nuclear transmutation, although novel and purely experimental, can "kill two birds with one stone" For example; old nuclear weapons, such as the Genie air-to-air A- bombs, once active during the late 1950's to the 1960's, can be detonated (underground) and in close proximity to intensely radioactive spent fuel rods. By converting the Genie weapons into neutron bombs, the detonation would change the nuclear chemistry of the rods into much more manageable and less radioactive fission products. This is a practical solution on two fronts; the Genies would not require costly dismantling for plutonium extraction and the HEU fission products from commercial power plants would be, literally by an Alchemy of sorts, be converted to lower level waste and thus have shorter half lives in burial.

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Federal Register Notice: 83FR44922
Comment Number: 18537

Mail Envelope Properties (5bbd834a1f4af_c3d697d5b41003795a)

Subject: [External_Sender] NRC-2016-0231; Docket # 72-1050
Sent Date: 10/10/2018 12:42:50 AM
Received Date: 10/10/2018 12:42:52 AM
From: Elmer Fudzie

Created By: info@sg.actionnetwork.org

Recipients:

Post Office: ip-10-0-0-119.mail

Files	Size	Date & Time
MESSAGE	1777	10/10/2018 12:42:52 AM

Options
Priority: Standard
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Sensitivity: Normal
Expiration Date:
Recipients Received: