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Agency Activities in Response to a Portion of the Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act

Comment On: NRC-2019-0073-0001

Agency Activities in Response to a Portion of the Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act

Document: NRC-2019-0073-DRAFT-0013

Comment on FR Doc # 2019-04960

Submitter Information

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Organization: Nuclear Energy Information Service

General Comment

Docket ID NRC2019 0073

Title: The Chicago case to be a hearing venue for deciding on the establishment of Community Engagement Panelsfor Decommissioning Nuclear Power Plants in the U.S.

The Nuclear Energy Information Service hereby submits a request to the NRC that one of the hearings for the establishment of Community Engagement Panelsfor Decommissioning Nuclear Power Plants in the U.S. be held in Chicago.

NEIS is a 37 year-old organization. Having closely followed nuclear issues since 1982, we have extensive knowledge of nuclear power and waste. Given the urgency of the recent IPCC report, there is no longer any time left for complacency or piecemeal, half-hearted measures.

Five of the eleven reactors in Illinois, the most nuclear powered state, can be expected to be decommissioned within 20 years and the other six in the following 10 years. This means that Illinois will have communities in DeWitt, Grundy, Lake, LaSalle, Ogle, Rock Island, and Will Counties with huge casks of high-level nuclear waste to deal with. Interest in whether this seeming liability can be turned into an asset is high.

Please consider these ten reasons for holding an NRC meeting in Chicago.

1. It behooves the NRC to attract as many as possible to these meetings. Metropolitan Chicago has a

population of about 9.5 million, making it more convenient for involved people* from all over the area to be able to attend.

2.The NRC should hold the meetings as close as possible to potential CIS sites. Given the prevailing southwesterly wind, Chicago is 40 miles downwind of Morris, Illinois a location that is already being used for interim storage and may be a desirable site in the NRCs eyes for more of the same.

3.A variety of opinions on the subject of CISFs is available.The decommissioned Zion NPP is only 30 miles from our border.The views of citizens, including the mayor of Zion, who are living with stranded HLRW should be heard, thus giving the NRC first-hand information on what it is like to have interim storage close by.

4.Exelon, the owner of more commercial nuclear reactors than any other company and owner of the 11 functioning reactors in Illinois, is a strong presence in Chicago. This will lend another voice to the conundrum of what to do with HLRW.

5.The University of Chicago is a source for many opinions.Events surrounding the 75th anniversary of the first controlled atomic pile attracted lots of knowledgeable people, a well-organized resource that is still available.

6.Chicago is a center of freight movement.Wherever CISFs may someday be located, trains carrying radioactive packages will be passing through our city as it is a hub to every potential location in the country.Thus, this area is vital to the creation of CISFs and Chicagoans will be greatly affected by any decisions whatever they may be.

7.Illinois has more functioning commercial nuclear reactors than any other state. The population surrounding commercial reactors reaches the 10s of millions.Each of these towns and counties is a potential repository for stranded nuclear waste.Many local citizens will want to be able to hear what the NRC has to say about interim storage.Chicago is central to these populations.

8.Peoples interest in what to do with HLRW is increasing by the day.Many who are not involved in the industry itself and are not activists have views on this problem.They would welcome a chance to hear how a government agency sounds out involved citizens.

9.Charlevoix Michigan, on Lake Michigan is a site of stranded nuclear waste.Also Covert and Bridgeman, Michigan are sites of working NPPs.Wisconsin has two closed NPPs and one, Point Beach, still functioning.Chicago is a natural destination for people from Michigan and Wisconsin.It can be expected that an NRC hearing here would attract people from those areas.

10.The presence of nuclear reactors on the shores of the North American Great Lakes is a matter of concern.Lake Michigan, itself, sites 6 operating or decommissioned nuclear generating stations.Fourteen more are using North American Great Lakes water for cooling.As these utilities wind down, there will be a growing interest in the fate of high-level nuclear waste.

In Summary:

Nuclear Energy Information Service earnestly requests that the NRC use our city as a site for citizen input on how we will handle HLRW.Events in Chicago will be of great interest throughout the Great Lakes.

Thank you for considering these views,

Jan Boudart, Board Member, Nuclear Energy Information Service.

N.B.

I am not using the word stakeholders because the future health and well-being is at stake for every citizen of Chicago, the U.S. and the world.No one alive today is not a stakeholder.