SUNSI Review Complete
Template = ADM-013
E-RIDS=ADM-03
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COMMENT (68)
PUBLICATION DATE: 8/7/2019
CITATION 84 FR 38675

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: 10/4/19 9:01 AM
Received: October 01, 2019
Status: Pending_Post
Tracking No. 1k3-9ci3-sb3v
Comments Due: October 07, 2019
Submission Type: Web

Docket: NRC-2019-0155
Reactor Oversight Process Enhancement Initiative

Comment On: NRC-2019-0155-0001
Reactor Oversight Process Enhancement Initiative

Document: NRC-2019-0155-DRAFT-0068
Comment on FR Doc # 2019-16876

Submitter Information

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General Comment

October 1, 2019

Dear Nuclear Regulatory Dept.
ROP Enhancement and docket ID NRC-2019-0155

I am writing this letter over concerns of your proposal to reduce NRC safety rules.

First nuclear energy is not that clean and not very safe. Let me explain. The energy needed to make the nuclear rods makes a big carbon foot print. Starting with the mining of the uranium to the enhancement plant, then a fabrication plant and finally the transportation of the highly reactive nuclear rods uses a lot of energy and gas.

Then there is the operation of the plant and its use of fuel. Just to refreshyour memory. It takes about 27 tons of fresh fuel to operate a 1,000 MWe nuclear plant per year. Less than coal but still uses energy that produces this fuel it needs.

This brings me to the big issue of safety. Certainly the nuclear plant itself has many safety systems and back-up systems in place. Past history has demonstrated that there is always the possibility for a failure.

Certainly the plant itself is almost carbon footprint free but then the big concern is over the spent rods. They are highly radioactive and have a half live of 159,230 years. What are we to do with these spent rods?

They are kept in tubes and must be kept under water to keep them cool and the water must be kept circulation. This uses energy. If for some un for seen reason the pump stops circulating the water the hot rods will boil the water and it will evaporate exposing the tubes.

When the tubes are exposed to air the metal oxidizes and starts to break. This causes the uranium rods to melt which is the real problem. These spent rods need to be kept under water for 8-10 years before they can be taken out and out in dry cast storage. Then what do we do with these storage units for the next 259,230 years? Here lies the big problem. Shall we just leave it up to our future generation?

I think nuclear energy has outlived it time and it is now time to start thinking about other sources of energy that will not be as harmful and dangerous to our planet.

Of course there is no such thing as perfect source of energy. Everyone knows that there is a give and take in all our energy sources. What we need to do is find the least destructive and least dangerous energy source to our planet and our future.

Thank you for taking the time to read my concerns and hope you re-consider changing the safety rule of nuclear energy.

Sincerely