

From: [Virginia Madsen](#)
To: [RulemakingComments.Resource](#)
Subject: [External_Sender] Docket ID No. NRC-2017-0081 - don't allow unsafe disposal of radioactive waste
Date: Tuesday, December 10, 2019 7:16:38 AM

Dear Nuclear Regulatory Commission rulemaking,

I am stunned that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) proposes to allow near-surface disposal of Greater-than-Class-C (GTCC) waste. Granted that Texas is already a dumping ground, but the aquifer that many drink from shouldn't be theirs to poison.

An existing Environmental Impact Statement for GTCC waste determined that it is “not generally acceptable for near surface disposal.” This proposed rulemaking would upend established principles regarding the safe handling and disposal of radioactive waste. GTCC waste includes waste produced in nuclear reactors, transuranic wastes (which take much longer to decay and can be dangerous for 1,000 years) and other types of nuclear waste. For this reason, only deep geologic disposal will ensure that this waste is not a threat to humanity. The NRC’s proposal would reclassify that waste and allow it to be disposed of via shallow burial.

I am also concerned that this proposal is paving the way for GTCC waste to be dumped at the Waste Control Specialists site in Andrews County, Texas. A study by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality showed that this site is not ideal for disposal of radioactive waste because of risk of water contamination. This rule change seems designed to allow inadequate disposal of this waste through shallow burial.

Furthermore, the risk of transport of GTCC waste across the country has not been adequately accounted for. Numerous communities would be put at risk as this dangerous waste passes through them.

I urge you not to proceed with this rulemaking and to develop a safe solution for the handling and disposal of Greater-than-Class C waste.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Virginia Madsen
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