

COMMENTS ON NUCLEAR SITE CLEANUP
FOR THE
NRC-EPA WORKSHOP, DALLAS, MARCH 23-24, 1993 '93 MAY 27 1993

As a long-time citizen activist in energy issues, I want to express my ideas concerning "site cleanup criteria" for nuclear installations. I am speaking primarily of nuclear generating plants which have had to quit operating. I believe there are about 15 which have shut down, mainly for safety reasons, with many more to come in the next decade or two. All of the government installations are also a big problem which will probably have to be handled in much the same way.

1. I believe it is a fact that nuclear sites will not be cleaned up in the foreseeable future. A permant site for radioactive wastes cannot be located, and methods for handling and storing have not been satisfactorily developed. Since there is no place to put them, reactors and other highly radioactive materials, including spent fuel cells, cannot be removed from the site where they operated. Therefore, the only reasonable handling of closed nuclear plants is moth-balling and monitoring. With all of this dangerous material remaining on site, it is obvious that monitoring is the only solution. This monitoring may have to continue for decades, if not centuries. It's too bad that the people who brought nuclear plants to us didn't figure all this out before the plants were built. Obviously, taxpayer and ratepayers will have to pay the bill, although we have already paid billions for the nuclear industry.

2. I am opposed to such conferences as this being held, inasmuch as they are paid for by taxpayers and ratepayers. People from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Environmental Protection Agency, along with people from the utilities, will attend with all expenses paid by taxpayers and ratepayers. Since there is obviously nothing positive that can be done by these people, there is no point on their spending all this money traveling to and meeting in Dallas.

3. I want to receive the paper, "Proposed Rulemaking to Establish Radiological Criteria for Decommissioning: Issues for Discussion at Workshops" and would like also to receive the summary of the discussions at the workshop. I would like also to receive a complete listing of participants, including citizens and their organizations; government officials and their agencies; and utility people and the companies they represent. I want to know who is spending my money, since I cannot afford to attend.

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