

From: Michael Pelizzari <myvoice@oneclickpolitics.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 3:32 PM
To: AdvancedReactors-GEIS Resource
Subject: [External_Sender] The environment is suffering: it needs the microreactors that GEIS can enable. Docket ID: NRC-2020-0101

Re: The environment is suffering: it needs the microreactors that GEIS can enable. Docket ID: NRC-2020-0101

Dear Nuclear Regulatory Commission,

I am writing to support the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's proposal to produce a generic environmental impact statement (GEIS) for small-scale advanced nuclear reactors. GEIS will protect public health and safety and the environment, by ensuring that clean, emission-free power plants can be effectively evaluated and brought online. Reasons to support this effort include:

- 1) NRC has decades of experience evaluating and overseeing small scale and advanced nuclear reactors (ANRs).
- 2) While the category of advanced reactors covers a far wider variety of potential reactor designs than exist today, their far smaller requirements for material and cooling water than LWRs, and their inherent safety characteristics, mean their overall risk to the environment will be much smaller than LWRs. Therefore GEIS is appropriate for these technology types.
- 3) There is significant basis for assuming small-scale ANRs would not be able to cause significant offsite radiation releases. The U.S. has had experience with hundreds of small-scale reactors without a single significant release.
- 4) Similarly, the microreactors contemplated in the GEIS would have a dramatically smaller environmental footprint than large light water reactor plants traditionally evaluated in large plant EIS analysis, and these non-LWR microreactors lend themselves to a generic evaluation.
- 5) Advanced reactors that utilize a fast spectrum are the only effective tool in the world to both produce clean electricity as well as reduce radioactive waste. In fact, they are key to closing the fuel cycle and turning current hazards into valuable assets to the public.
- 6) All of the environmental impacts of small-scale ANRs will have significantly positive environmental justice impacts, especially due to their fundamental ability to have more distributed and smaller footprints, as well as the ability to reduce cost overruns, and for communities to "opt-in" as opposed to having large plants of any kind which are generally forced on small, underprivileged, or remote communities. Dirty, polluting power plants and activities have been located disproportionately on indigenous peoples' lands and in African-American, Latinx, and other communities of color, and the health effects of living near emissions sources should be accounted for in the generic environmental impact statement.

The NRC must consider the importance of streamlining the environmental review and licensing process for ANRs due to the realities of climate change, since nuclear power still provides a majority of U.S. emission-free power, and represents the best option for scaling up clean electricity to meeting emissions targets before broader environmental collapse and further impacts on health due to emissions.

What alternative energy sources do opponents of GEIS propose? Ask them if they are aware of the environmental damage that 100% renewable energy would inflict on the world.

Thank you for continuing to ensure health and safety, in particular by enabling efficient review of clean power plants.

Sincerely,
Michael Pelizzari
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264 Callan St Milpitas, CA 95035 Constituent

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