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PROPOSED RULE (54 FR 19379)

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U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Docketing and Service
Washington, D.C. 20555

'89 JUN 19 P4:14

OFFICE OF SECRETARY
DOCKETING & SERVICE
BRANCH

Dear Sirs,

I strongly oppose your recent proposal for cutting the public out of the decision-making process in the case of radioactive-waste storage permits.

As it is now, federal officials who regulate the nuclear-power industry routinely ignore public opposition to the industry. Instead of just covering your ears, you now want to simply silence the opposition.

We have seen that those who merely regulate themselves without any independent oversight do not place health and safety issues on the top of their priority lists. As a result, thousands of people have had their health and safety placed in jeopardy.

We need to do more, rather than less, to insure that the nuclear power industry is forced to take every possible precaution to avoid poisoning our land, air and water. By eliminating the public from the licensing process you would be making the statement that you don't give a damn about the health and safety of the nuclear workers and the citizens of this country. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission must not become the Nuclear Rubber-stamp Commission and give nuclear-reactor operators blanket permission to store waste without seeking a permit from the NRC.

This foolish idea of yours must never become law.

Thank You,

Sincerely,

Brian Brigham

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P.S. I hope that you will extend the time beyond June 19 to receive public comment. I have many friends who need to know of this attempt of yours to short circuit and kill the basis of democracy, an informed, active and empowered citizenry.

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