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General Comment

We emphatically oppose NRC's implementation of the proposed rulemaking for "Categorical Exclusions from Environmental Review". What does this even mean? The NRC's statement that this would apply to "licensing, regulatory, and administrative actions that individually or cumulatively do not have a significant effect on the human environment" is in and of itself demonstration that the proposal is arbitrary and capricious. The NRC offers no metric, no illumination as to what would be different from its current process. What the agency puts forth is essentially a "rule" excuse for nuclear industry actors to avoid having to disclose information to the public about activities which impact the environment or public health, so long as they conclude - sans investigation - and without the require "hard look" or an Environmental Impact Study, that they do not need to consider such impacts. More egregiously, implementation of the rule would constitute another NRC abnegation of its duty to the public. This attempted end run around the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and not identify, consider or mitigate impacts of its specific actions violates the procedure and substance of NEPA. The NRC does not have the right or jurisdiction to uni-laterally suspend and end Environmental Review. This rulemaking is ultra vires and cannot withstand judicial scrutiny and should be abandoned before the agency is required to waste resources defending an indefensible deregulatory action