

Dibyam Dikhit
201 Viking Drive
Pleasant Hill, California 94523

May 26 2022

Christopher Hanson
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mail Stop O-16 B33
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Greetings Mr. Hanson,

While nuclear energy is one of the most low carbon producing energy sources, the harmful waste that it produces is not being stored safely enough. These methods of storage are not an efficient enough method long term nor work well enough short term. The current methods of storage include spent fuel pools and dry cask storages. These are usually reliable enough methods of storage, but accidents still occur and lead to harmful incidents. I believe that a better option for storage is deep geological disposal in places where a substantial amount of water is not near it. It may cost more to store than these pools but it would be a more reliable and safe method of storage.

These hazardous materials from the nuclear waste have many problems. One of them is the effect that they can have on plants and animals. This highly radioactive waste gives off radioactive particles as well. These wastes take hundreds of thousands of years to decompose and the only ways that these wastes become harmless is through decay. These wastes are most commonly stored in spent fuel cells and dry cask storage. The problem with this is that often these wastes can percolate into the groundwater. Some of these storages are also often not covered which leads to these chemicals leaking into the air. Storms and hurricanes and other natural disasters can lead to these pools in the fuel cells getting overflowed. These natural disasters would not affect these wastes if they were underground in a safe place.

Another problem of current nuclear waste disposal is that it takes a lot of land to hold. Since it takes thousands of years to dispose of, when more waste is needed to get rid of, more containers have to be built. It has come to a point where we have to ship our radioactive waste. Currently, 15 million packages of radioactive material are transported yearly on public roads and highways and ships. We need new spaces to put this material and in doing so waste more and more land. Also, the problem with nuclear waste disposal is that it is a waste reduction method rather than a waste production solution. It focuses more on the output than the input problem. If we stored these nuclear wastes underground, we would not have to spend millions making these pools and casks and containers. We would also not have to use up land since it is stored underground.

These reasons show why it is vital to switch from the current methods of storage of nuclear waste and switch to underground methods. One disadvantage of storing it in the ground is that it has a possibility of mixing with groundwater. However if it can be stored in areas without water around and deep enough in the earth, there would be no negatives to this solution.

Thank you,
Dibyam Dikhit

Dibyam Dikhit
201 Viking Drive
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

OAKLAND CA 945
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Christopher Hanson JUN 15 REC'D
Mail Stop O-16 B33
Washington, DC 20599-0001

1000-66502

