

# PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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**Docket:** NRC-2016-0179

Revisions to Transportation Safety Requirements and Compatibility with International Atomic Energy Agency Transportation Requirements

**Comment On:** NRC-2016-0179-0072

Harmonization of Transportation Safety Requirements with International Atomic Energy Agency Standards

**Document:** NRC-2016-0179-DRAFT-0076

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## General Comment

This proposal by the Nuclear Regulatory Committee is a necessary law in order to ensure the safety in the transportation of nuclear waste. Nuclear energy is one of the cheapest and cleanest methods of electricity production; however, nuclear plant construction has declined since the 1980's because of safety concerns. The NRC's proposed rule updates are necessary to ensure safety and rebuild the trust in nuclear technology. Many reactors in The United States are nearing the end of their 40-60 year lifespans and new reactors will need to be built to offset the environmental toll caused by the increase of fossil fuel consumption.

The focus of this rule update is specifically on transportation regulations and aims minimize potential radiation exposure and prevent package fires. Nuclear packages can be dangerous to transport because old or improperly packages may leak decaying radioactive material and improperly insulated packages may explode under the heat of a hot summers' day. This can potentially be harmful to the local ecosystems as well as human safety. I support the NRC's proposal to eliminate these threats by establishing stricter mass limits, creating an age management plan to be applied to all packages, and requiring insulation for all nuclear packages. I also found the 8-year plan to cease the use of "grandfather packages", packaging systems that are not up to date with the NRC's 2015 transportation policy because of precedent of use, to be both fair to the transportation companies and another step toward ensuring the safe use of nuclear energy.

This law will help build public trust in nuclear safety by requiring the nuclear industry to consistently demonstrate safe practices. Public support leading to the construction of additional fission reactors to replace harmful fossil fuels as a primary source of electricity is paramount in the fight against climate change.