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OFFICE OF SECRETARY
RULEMAKINGS AND
ADJUDICATIONS STAFF

DRAFT POLICY STATEMENT

68FR62642

From: LRGEISUpdate
To: SECY
Date: Wed, Nov 19, 2003 9:56 AM
Subject: Fwd: Treatment of Environmental Justice Matters in NRC Regulatory and Licensing Actions

This comment was received through the License Renewal GEIS Update email address, but does not specifically pertain to that action. It is a request for an extension of the comment period for the EJ policy statement.

Thanks,
Stacey Imboden
415-2462
NRR/DRIP/RLEP

From: "Robert Rutkowski" <rutkowski@terraworld.net>
To: <LRGEISUpdate@nrc.gov>, <hearingsdocket@nrc.gov>
Date: Sat, Nov 15, 2003 8:37 PM
Subject: Treatment of Environmental Justice Matters in NRC Regulatory and Licensing Actions

Chief, Rules and Directives Branch
Division of Administrative Services
Office of Administration
Mailstop T-6 D 59
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001
LRGEISUpdate@nrc.gov, hearingsdocket@nrc.gov

Reference: "Policy Statement on the Treatment of Environmental Justice Matters in NRC Regulatory and Licensing Actions, Federal Register, November 5, 2003, V. 68, No. 214, pp 62642-62645)

Dear Chief:

Concern is expressed that the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission has issued a draft policy statement that would weaken its environmental justice rules, making it more difficult to effectively bring up environmental justice issues in nuclear siting and operations hearings.

The draft statement is in response to a December 2002 plea from the atomic industry's Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), which would prefer exoneration and immunity from any racist practices. The NRC could, and should, have ignored that plea entirely.

Instead, the NRC has chosen to accommodate the NEI, and is now seeking public comment on its proposal. Unfortunately, the agency is so far providing only a 60-day comment period (it ends January 5, 2004) which includes the busy Holiday season. Moreover, as of November 14, 2003, the NRC's website still says that there are no proposed policies available for public comment, the draft policy itself is nearly impossible to find, and the key background documents, such as President Clinton's original Executive Order on environmental justice and NRC Chairman Ivan Selin's March 31, 1994 letter to Clinton committing the NRC to abide by the Executive Order, are nowhere to be found on the NRC's website.

One would think that the NRC would seek the broadest possible public comment for an issue that is both fundamental to human rights and is non-technical in nature.

I request an extension of the public comment period until July 4, 2004. I also suggest that the NRC hold at least 10 public meetings on its plans.

Thank you for the opportunity to bring these remarks to your attention.

Mindful of the responsibilities which stand before you, I am,

Yours sincerely,
Robert E. Rutkowski

cc:
Nancy Pelosi
Andrew H. Card, Jr.

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