

September 23, 2013

Chairwoman Allison McFarlane
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

RE: Please Protect Our Communities from Radioactive Waste

I am writing because I am deeply concerned about how our most hazardous waste, radioactive fuel rods from nuclear reactors, is stored.

For decades, nuclear power reactors all over the country have been allowed to operate without consideration to what would happen to the highly radioactive waste they produced. This puts communities and the environment at risk across the nation. We should not license or re-license any reactor until it has been proven that it can successfully isolate this waste.

I am also concerned that many of our nuclear reactors have over-crowded fuel pools on site. These present safety threats to the communities and industries that surround the plants. The NRC should take immediate action to reduce the number of fuel assemblies in the water-filled pools.

Before transferring the fuel rods to cask storage, the cask storage needs to be examined and reinforced to be able to safely store the fuel rods, particularly those that qualify as high burn-up fuel. Hardened on-site storage of the casks should become the choice for storage.

I am deeply concerned about the sustainability of nuclear power. The EIS needs to evaluate the true costs of nuclear power after the subsidies are stripped away.


The long-term costs of decommissioning need to be considered as well. The ongoing costs to U.S. taxpayers should be transparent in the EIS.

Finally, the EIS should consider the option of not making any nuclear waste at all in the future by comparing the environmental footprint of nuclear from mining to long term waste disposal to that of renewables and energy efficiency.

The NRC must protect our communities and environment from radioactive waste. The NRC must adopt rules that will look at each nuclear plant closely. No nuclear plant should get an easy rubber stamp.

Thank you for your help in this urgent matter.

Yours truly,



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