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Docket: NRC-2012-0246
Consideration of Environmental Impacts on Temporary Storage of Spent Fuel After Cessation of Reactor Operation

Comment On: NRC-2012-0246-0456
Waste Confidence - Continued Storage of Spent Nuclear Fuel; Extension of Comment Period

Document: NRC-2012-0246-DRAFT-1118
Comment on FR Doc # 2013-26726

Submitter Information

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General Comment

Kathy C posted on the internet important ideas to consider:
"The only thing humans HAVE to do is die. Most of us here have been struggling for a long time in one way or another to figure out how best to live their lives before they die long before Peak Oil presented a specter of mass dieoff of humans, and Climate Change went unaddressed long enough that total dieoff looks inevitable. Many of us suspect that when the shit truly hits the fan, WWIII may break out. We have learned that when the grid finally collapses from lack of fuel, infrastructure failure, solar flare or EMP attack, every nuclear plant in the world (400+ with 700 reactors) will fail in ways similar to Fukushima because they need electricity to keep the fuel in the reactor and the fuel in the spent fuel pools cool. Think of that happening without any ability to re-mediate the situation as they are doing in Fukushima and did in Chernobyl. http://truth-out.org/news/item/7301-400-chernobyls-solar-flares-electromagnetic-pulses-and-nuclear-armageddon We can all die much sooner from some event related to climate change. The words “have to” have no magical power. To make our descent last a bit longer however we could try get the whole world to decommission all the nuclear reactors. Problem is that the countries of the world don’t “have to” listen but if you think that is a good cause you are welcome to beat your head against that brick wall.
The stored rods in the spent fuel pools have to spend about 5 years there before they can be put in dry cask. The unusual configuration of the pools in Fukushima etc is to allow the rods to never be out of water between being pulled from the reactor to the spent fuel pool. The idea was to keep them there and then when they are not so “hot” put them in dry cask or other methods to then transport to permanent storage somewhere. However it costs about 1 million per dry cask. Per Arnie Gundersen they have been filling the spent fuel pools much fuller than intended to avoid the cost of the dry casks. This puts off the cost until decommissioning which then uses the money they have set aside for decommissioning rather than taking the money out of their bottom line. I imagine that the makers of dry cask storage are making at the rate of current usage and are not able to increase

production suddenly. No matter how many swipes of the pen the powers that be might make, if there is a sudden need to get more fuel out of the spent fuel pools it won't happen when the pen is swiped. Further there is a backlog of the transformers essential to our grid and most are not even made in the US. Thus if a solar flare were to wipe out some substantial portion of these transformers no swipe of the pen could make them magically appear. When the grid goes down so does the ability to pump gasoline. Likewise while hand pumps can do the job they would be in short supply as there is not much demand for them now. Yet repair of the grid would require gasoline. A large or total grid failure would mean that we would have one week of cooling in the reactors before meltdown. All the fuel in the reactor and any fuel in the spent fuel pool that is there less than 5 years could not be put in casks. The rest could, but how would you transport the casks to the nuclear plant when you can't get gasoline. ETC ETC ETC. The Powers That Be are not gods or magicians. Even if we shut down all nuclear power plants today we cannot possibly make all the fuel safe for at least 5 years, and unless the dry cask or other methods of more permanent storage could be ramped up very very quickly it could take much much longer to get it all tucked away even if Yucca Mountain was finally approved. In the case of a sudden collapse of the grid from Solar Flare or EMP its all over. Given that TPTB are not shutting down nuclear power plants with great haste, and when they do they will likely use Safstor which takes 60 years, even the collapse from the lack of fuel will probably find us up shit creek when it comes to the nukes. Lets see; conventional oil has peaked, the best of the fracked oil has been extracted and newer fracked wells are depleting faster, the ERoRI on oil sands is declining, and Saudi Arabia output is probably peaked. So while the energy available to us is running out TPTB are going to allocate some of that energy to shut down nuclear energy. I don't think so.
"

Fukushima map:

http://radiowarrior.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/noaa_fukushima_map.jpg

Empty Spaces
How shall we fill empty spaces Through which the hot water races Above and around The wall? please expound: What should we do in such cases? BenjaminTheDonkey