

RulemakingComments Resource

From: Steve Shearer <zmbe76@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2015 3:28 PM
To: RulemakingComments Resource
Subject: [External_Sender] Don't weaken radioactive waste rules

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Dear Secretary,

Nuclear power generates more than 95% of the radioactivity buried at commercial radioactive waste dumps in the U.S. Some of that waste stays dangerous for literally millions of years.

All of the six "first generation" "low-level" radioactive waste dumps that opened in the 1960s have leaked; some are still leaking. Operating dumps currently are open in UT, TX, SC and WA. In addition, a lot of nuclear waste is processed in Tennessee and then sent on to those states. The NRC is proposing a rule change that would apply to these operating sites as well as any new dumps.

These weakened rules would let the public be exposed to a lot more radioactivity than is currently allowed by adopting the "updated" radiation regimen called EDE (Effective Dose Equivalent (EDE) allows more radioactivity per millirem for many radionuclides; we opposed this when NCR adopted it in other parts of its regulations and oppose incorporating it here for the same reasons). Allowable doses to the public would be raised from the existing 25 millirems a year to 25, 100, 500 or more millirems EDE per year. Of course, the NRC continues to ignore research that shows radiation causes even more cancer and cancer deaths in women and children than men and threatens the reproductive phase of our life-cycle.

This proposal is unacceptable; if there are to be any changes to radioactive waste rules, it should be to make them more protective of human health and the environment, not less so.

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