

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: 8/25/15 3:04 PM
Received: August 20, 2015
Status: Pending_Post
Tracking No. 1jz-8kny-xhgy
Comments Due: September 08, 2015
Submission Type: Web

Docket: NRC-2015-0057

Linear No-Threshold Model and Standards for Protection Against Radiation

Comment On: NRC-2015-0057-0010

Linear No-Threshold Model and Standards for Protection Against Radiation; Notice of Docketing and Request for Comment

Document: NRC-2015-0057-DRAFT-0154

Comment on FR Doc # 2015-15441

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General Comment

Fukushima Dai'ichi and similar accidents and activities have added to background radiation on Earth, as well as creating radiologically "hot" air-borne particles and aqueous radioactive pollution. Rather than protecting the public against these increased radiation sources, which are known to be carcinogenic, the NRC seems to be raising thresholds, with any excuse to do so, whether scientifically credible or not, for commercial reasons. This is morally wrong and highly dubious scientifically. Perhaps what the NRC should be saying is "... that we will raise the 'safe' threshold limits for radiation exposure in an arbitrary manner as radioactive accumulation in the environment increases as a function of time, not with regard to any safety issues for the public, but rather to make radioactive releases from nuclear power stations and similar sources appear not to be any environmental risk, so that the nuclear industry may continue in future". This does nothing to address the fact that energy can be more safely and more cheaply produced now from non-nuclear sources which do not carry any radiation exposure risk. By raising "safe" radiation limits, the NRC perpetuates an outdated and non-cost-effective method of energy production.