

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

21

As of: 3/31/16 10:33 AM
 Received: March 27, 2016
 Status: Pending Post
 Tracking No. 1k0-8oqr-4oqy
 Comments Due: March 28, 2016
 Submission Type: Web

Docket: NRC-2015-0234

A Compendium of Spent Fuel Transportation Package Response Analyses to Severe Fire Accident Scenarios

Comment On: NRC-2015-0234-0001

A Compendium of Spent Fuel Transportation Package Response Analyses to Severe Fire Accident Scenarios;
 Draft NUREG/CR-7209; Request for Comment

Document: NRC-2015-0234-DRAFT-0022

Comment on FR Doc # 2016-01654

1/27/2016
 81 FR 4680

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2016 MAR 31 AM 10:41

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General Comment

Thank you for this opportunity. The transportation of dangerous radioactive waste from Diablo Canyon raises a host of issues. If they were to be shipped by rail, they would need to be taken to a loading facility that does not now exist, by way of two-lane roads that pass through populated areas, then by way of Highway 101, and then presumably by way of the streets of San Luis Obispo or some other Central Coast city.

Once loaded on trains, these lethal loads would be sharing tracks with dangerous and explosive chemicals, including oil and petrochemicals. The amount of oil shipped on American tracks increased 40-fold between 2008 and 2014. To see a list of recent North American rail disasters involving these materials, visit the Final EIR on the Phillips 66 project proposed in San Luis Obispo County, turning to the section that includes public comments on the Draft, then to the category of "Organizations and Individuals," and then to the comments of "Mesa Refinery Watch," where you will find this list in the section on Hazards and Hazardous Materials. More such accidents have occurred since this correspondence was written.

The significance of the above is that these cargoes, which could potentially collide with, or derail in proximity to, trains carrying lethal radioactive waste, tend to react EXPLOSIVELY to collisions and derailments. The resultant fireballs can scatter whatever is involved in these accidents over large areas, and the smoke could become a vehicle for radioactive fallout. The concerns over accidents entangling radioactive with explosive cargoes only add to the many other concerns involved with radioactive waste transport, from human error to terrorism. Remember that our rails travel through the heart of most of the populated areas of our country, as well as traversing agricultural and wild areas that need to be kept clean.

While indefinite storage onsite raises many concerns of its own, if monitored and retrievable for repacking

SUNSI Review Complete
 Template = ADM-013

E-REDS = ADM-03
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when containers leak, it raises fewer concerns than transport, in which accidents can happen faster than anyone can anticipate, and can overwhelm the capabilities of most emergency responders along the routes involved. To sum up, it is a dangerous and irresponsible idea!!

Many thanks, Eric Greening