

From: David Vassar <vassar@fordham.edu>
Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2020 6:26 PM
To: VLLWTransferComments Resource
Subject: [External_Sender] Reject nuclear waste in landfills--VLLW reinterpretation

Nuclear Regulatory Commission (VLLW)

RE: Reject nuclear waste in landfills--VLLW reinterpretation

Dear ,

To the NRC VLLW Docket NRC-2020-0065

Reject nuclear waste in landfills--VLLW reinterpretation

Please act to PROTECT the well-being of New York communities and our common environment by PROHIBITING THE DUMPING of dangerous radioactive waste into landfills and other sites absurdly designated as "exempt" from nuclear controls.

Please UPHOLD the CURRENT interpretation of US nuclear regulations requiring that licensed nuclear material and waste be placed in the custody of persons OFFICIALLY AUTHORIZED AND LICENSED under the Atomic Energy Act to handle and dispose of nuclear waste.

I STRONGLY OPPOSE the ill-conceived VLLW plan to reinterpret the rules to permit transport of nuclear waste to places lacking necessary nuclear licensing. I urge you likewise to oppose this terrible 'plan.'

Bottom line: Managing the waste from nuclear power must remain the responsibility, legally and financially, of the licensed entities that made that waste.

I join a rising chorus of voices in absolutely REFUSING to accept nuclear waste in local landfills or other properties. Nor may it be taken to hazardous or industrial waste sites where the radioactivity can react with other chemicals, making public exposures and releases potentially more harmful than they already are; nor to recycling stations, incinerators or other unregulated places.

This VLLW proposal would potentially allow entire nuclear reactors to be dumped or otherwise treated as if not radioactive.

This is an insane and unacceptable proposition.

I object to the secretive nature of this whole process including the failure to require notification or to provide the opportunity for communities to intervene when their landfills or other disposal facilities are applying for "specific exempt" status or are already approved.

There is no requirement or mechanism to verify or enforce the kinds and amounts of waste and leakage.

VLLW is not just "slightly contaminated" waste--it would allow ALL the known waste (and possibly even more) that now goes to licensed nuclear waste sites to go to standard garbage dumps. The allowable level could cause cancer in at least 1 in 500 people from such exposure over their lifetimes.

This proposal is even more outrageous than the similar Below Regulatory Control policies that the public and Congress revoked in the 1990s.

Can states and local governments not REJECT these proposed reinterpretations when such reinterpretations are clearly antithetical to public well-being ?

I urge you not to proceed with this "interpretive" rule change which would really amount to a complete reversal in regulation requiring environmental impact statements nationally and at each site.

PLEASE: Act effectively and decisively to KEEP nuclear waste under proper nuclear regulatory controls!

Thank you,

Sincerely,
Mr. David Vassar
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Comment Number: 4101

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Subject: [External_Sender] Reject nuclear waste in landfills--VLLW reinterpretation
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MESSAGE	3056	7/16/2020 6:26:25 PM

Options
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