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Transfer of Very Low-Level Waste to Exempt Persons for Disposal

Comment On: NRC-2020-0065-0001

Transfer of Very Low-Level Waste to Exempt Persons for Disposal

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Submitter Information

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General Comment

I OPPOSE the egregious VLLW plan to reinterpret the rules to let nuclear waste go to places *without* a nuclear license. Insanely and recklessly, entire nuclear power reactors become waste and could get dumped as regular trash or even recycled into things I come into contact with every day. Do you want this in *your* neighborhood? Do you care about *your* drinking water, soil and air??

The proposed "reinterpretation" of NRC regulations is a clear effort to let nuclear power owners shift legal and financial responsibility to the public. I OPPOSE this crazy pseudo-rule change that would let nuclear waste in my or other communities' local landfill or other properties.

Sending it to hazardous or industrial waste sites is even worse because the radioactivity can react with other chemicals, making leaks to air and water exponentially MORE harmful than they are already. I OPPOSE the criminal exemption from nuclear regulatory control that could lead to the nuclear waste getting burned or recycled into everyday items and building supplies. This immoral VLLW proposal could permit, by exemption, entire massive nuclear reactors being dumped or left as if not radioactive.

NRC is ridiculously claiming this reinterpretation is "voluntary." How will we ever know which landfills and which states are doing it? The whole proposal is a shamefully secretive deregulation without public notice or opportunity for individuals or communities to intervene when their landfill or other facility is applying or approved as "specific exempt." So much for "democracy." Once approved, it would be forever allowed to take that kind of nuclear waste with no enforcement of the very vague assumptions.

The proposed "dose limit"--really ANY dose limit--is a calculation done by the applicant using *unverified* assumptions to claim the site will be "acceptable." It is NOTHING but a blank check to allow unlimited amounts of nuclear waste out of regulatory control with no need to check or enforce radioactive leakage. This deplorable proposal is even more bold and expansive than the many past efforts by the nuclear industry and its "regulators" which Congress revoked in the 1992 and the public has repeatedly REJECTED over the decades of the nuclear age.

Scrap this horrendous "interpretive" rule change. Keep nuclear waste under nuclear regulatory CONTROL and make the *polluters pay* to try to isolate it--NOT release it! STOP this insanity and irresponsibility!

We ALL need healthy, clean, safe air, water and soil, NOT radiation.