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Docket: NRC-2020-0277

Notice of Intent to Conduct Scoping Process and Prepare Environmental Impact Statement NextEra Energy Point Beach, LLC; Point Beach Nuclear Plant, Unit Nos. 1 and 2

Comment On: NRC-2020-0277-0001

Notice of Intent To Conduct Scoping Process and Prepare Environmental Impact Statement; NextEra Energy Point Beach, LLC, Point Beach Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2

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General Comment

(Beyond Nuclear, public comment #12)

If Point Beach is allowed to operate an additional 20 years, on top of the 60 already permitted, for a grand total of 80, this will mean the generation of many additional hundreds of metric tons of high-level radioactive waste at Point Beach.

This could come back to haunt Wisconsin in the end.

Wisconsin was targeted, at two separate sites in the 1980s during the Nuclear Waste Policy Act's Eastern Site Search, for a national high-level radioactive waste dump. One site was the Wolf River Batholith. The second site was the Puritan Pluton. The Eastern Site Search for a permanent geologic repository was abandoned in 1986, a prelude to the "Screw Nevada" bill of 1987.

However, the State of Nevada, the Western Shoshone, and more than a thousand environmental groups, have successfully fended off the Yucca dump, for 34 years, and have no intention of ever yielding.

And in 2008, the U.S. Department of Energy released its Report on the Need for a Second Repository. It made clear that Wisconsin is still under consideration for a second permanent geologic repository. However, since Yucca is cancelled, perhaps it'll be targeted for the country's first national permanent geologic repository.

Wisconsin should stop generating high-level radioactive waste, unless it wants to move closer to the front of the line, for further consideration to become a -- perhaps the -- national high-level radioactive waste dump.

Kewaunee's closure in 2013 was a good step in the right direction. Now Point Beach should also be closed, as soon as possible. And of course no new atomic reactors should ever be built in Wisconsin. Point Beach's alternative to yet another 20 years of operations at Point Beach -- a small modular nuclear reactor to replace it -- is absurd. The high-level radioactive waste generated at even a small modular nuclear reactor would, like another 20 years of operations and high-level radioactive waste generation at Point Beach -- make Wisconsin an ever more likely target, yet again, for a national high-level radioactive waste dump.

Sincerely,

Kevin Kamps

Beyond Nuclear, Radioactive Waste Specialist; Don't Waste Michigan, Board of Directors Member, representing the Lake Michigan Chapter; Citizens for Alternatives to Chemical Contamination, Advisory Board Member

and Kay Drey, Beyond Nuclear, Board of Directors President (University City, Missouri)

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Beyond Nuclear aims to educate and activate the public about the connections between nuclear power and nuclear weapons and the need to abolish both to safeguard our future. Beyond Nuclear advocates for an energy future that is sustainable, benign and democratic.