

WCO outreachCEM Resource

From: jeanie.newlife@gmail.com on behalf of j stewart magill [radicalvantage@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, February 24, 2012 4:24 PM
To: WCO outreach Resource
Subject: public comment on Nuclear Waste Confidence Decision

I appreciate the opportunity to leave my comments regarding the NRC's pending revisions to its confidence decision.

I am opposed to the so-called solutions the NRC favors either of on-site dry cask storage or liquid storage in pools. Neither of those options will be able to deal with eventualities in the near future and certainly not in years to come. We stand to leave our children and grandchildren and their children and grandchildren on in to the distant future with a toxicity nightmare. Pools can run dry or drain and spark fires that would release up to 100% of the deadly radiation Cesium-137. Obviously there would be other compounds that would also combine to produce devastation on a grand scale. As for dry cask storage, though it may be a stop-gap for the mounting piles of spent fuel at this time, it is not a sane approach to long-term storage.

In fact, there is no 'safe' storage for spent nuclear fuel, no 'safe mode' for plants that experience breakdowns and problems, no one else's land in to which we can dump this highly toxic, deadly waste. I live about forty miles from the Byron nuclear power plant in Byron, Illinois. As you well know we just went through an "unusual event". The nerves of local people even as far away as myself were on edge for days and though the NRC was quick to assure the public that nothing radioactive had been tested in the air or in the water, there is the matter of on-going discoveries of two-headed fish and single sex frogs in the river that takes the outflow from the plant as well as higher than normal levels of cancer in the area.

Have we not learned anything from Japan's terror? So many disasters await us because of our aging U.S. nuclear plants. The answer I believe is not to build new plants or to try to manage more and more spent fuel for generations but to give the r&d people and our best and brightest brains all they need to develop every possible form of alternative energy. Additionally, as a country, we need to begin powering down before we are forced to do so. The age of fossil fuels is over. Anything from here on will be prohibitively costly in many ways.

I ask you to consider seeking something other than dry cask storage or liquid storage. I ask that you consider the shutting down and hardening of all U.S. reactors as well as any and all spent fuel. We live in a significantly higher risk world than ever before. Personally, I do not feel confidence in the ability of that old plant in Byron to withstand too many "unusual events" in to the future. And there are many in the area in which I live, all aging rapidly.

Please consider nuclear waste as something that will haunt us in to the next millennium. Harden the waste. Perhaps the NRC's challenge is to develop a written language that will be intelligible into the distant future to paste on the hardened storage sites.

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