

Statement made via Phone, NRC Waste Confidence Meeting 11/14/2013

My name is Gail Snyder I serve on the Board of Nuclear Energy Information Service. I am a resident of Illinois the State with the most stored radioactive nuclear energy waste and operating nuclear reactors of any state in the country.

As nuclear energy has progressed through the decades each generation of enthusiastic nuclear engineers and physicists have promised they would solve the problems of nuclear waste. The problem has not been solved yet we keep producing more nuclear waste and as well as new generations of young enthusiastic nuclear engineers who hope theirs will be the generation to solve the nuclear waste problem. Nuclear waste is not a socio-politico problem it is a problem of science. I hope these young nuclear engineers do solve the nuclear waste problem and I hope they stop making more nuclear waste in the interim and focus all their enthusiasm toward a science based solution and stop the double speak about wanting to find a repository and wanting to reprocess the nuclear fuel. A permanent deep geologic repository that is selected using the best science possible is what is needed to protect us from the over 70,000 tons of nuclear waste that already exists in this country.

After the nuclear disaster in Fukushima, Japan one of the arguments made that such a disaster couldn't happen here was that we were unlikely to have a Tsunami at most nuclear reactors in the USA. Statements like "we won't have a tsunami in Illinois" were made by those defending nuclear energy. Then the Missouri river flooded and the Ft. Calhoun Nuclear Facility was overwhelmed by water. It remains shutdown to this day. Concerns that the failure of a Dam upstream could break and finish off the facility were real and we were all lucky it didn't happen.

The NRC did a study on the possibility of dam failures impacting nuclear facilities and it took an NRC whistleblower to reveal that the NRC covered up information that showed the vulnerability of Nuclear Facilities across the country to dam failure. The NRC's own reliability and risk engineer claimed, as reported in a Huffington Post article,

"that NRC officials falsely invoked security concerns in redacting large portions of a [report](#) detailing the agency's preliminary investigation into the potential for dangerous and damaging flooding at U.S. nuclear power plants due to upstream dam failure."

Then joined by another NRC engineer they

"suggested that the real motive for redacting certain information was to prevent the public from learning the full extent of these vulnerabilities, and to obscure just how much the NRC has known about the problem, and for how long."

This is the behavior of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, this is who we are supposed to have confidence in to allow nuclear waste be to stored on-site indefinitely at nuclear facilities around the country. I do not have confidence in the Nuclear Regulatory Commission or their Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement and accompanying rule.