

June 9, 2000

Ms. Laurel M. Suggs, President
and Mary T. Kelly, PhD., Assoc. Director
for Natural Resources
League of Women Voters
of South Carolina
Post Office Box 8453
Columbia, SC 29202

SUBJECT: DRAFT NUREG-1718

Dear Ms. Suggs and Dr. Kelly:

I am responding to your letter dated May 8, 2000. I appreciate the concerns that you raised in your letter regarding opportunities for public participation. My staff is currently planning to conduct two public meetings in South Carolina. The purpose of these meetings is to: (1) explain the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) role with respect to fabricating mixed oxide (MOX) fuel and using it in reactors; (2) describe the NRC's licensing process; (3) describe opportunities for public participation during the MOX licensing process; and (4) answer any questions from meeting participants. These meetings are scheduled for the evenings of July 12, 2000, in Columbia, South Carolina, and July 13, 2000, in N. Augusta, South Carolina.

We also plan to discuss 10 CFR Part 51, the NRC's regulations for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The NRC is planning to conduct an environmental impact analysis for the MOX fuel fabrication facility under Part 51. The July 12th and July 13th meetings are not part of the NRC's NEPA process for the MOX facility; however, my staff will be conducting future public meetings that are part of the NEPA process.

My staff will be contacting you shortly with specific details about the meeting location(s) and times. In the interim, if you have any questions, please contact Mr. Andrew Persinko at (301) 415-6522.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Michael F. Weber, Director
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety
and Safeguards
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket: 70-3098

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