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June 23, 2000

(189)

From: Patricia T. Birnie <birnie@gci-net.com>
To: <nrcprep@nrc.gov>
Date: Thu, Sep 21, 2000 11:19 PM
Subject: Draft Report Comments: NUREG-1714

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
Patricia T. Birnie (birnie@gci-net.com) on Thursday, September 21, 2000 at 23:19:03.

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Comments: GE Stockholders' Alliance
5349 W. Bar X Street
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September 21, 2000

Mr. David Meyer, Chief, Rules and Directives Branch
Division of Freedom of Information and Publications Services
Office of Administration
Mail Stop T-6D-59
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Re: NOI to Nuclear Utilities' "Private Fuel Storage" Plan

Dear Mr. Meyer:

The proposed "Private Fuel Storage" plan to temporarily store high level radioactive waste on the Goshute Indian Reservation in Utah should be abandoned immediately.

It is unconscionable to take advantage of the Skull Valley Band of Native Americans. Not only would this plan directly negatively affect the Goshute people (through inevitable contamination, and possible contamination of their water supply forever) it would adversely affect hundreds of thousands of people along the transportation routes to their site.

It makes no sense to move the high level radioactive waste to a TEMPORARY location ANYWHERE. Utilities can already utilize dry cask storage on site where the radwaste is generated until a safe, permanent storage site will be available. Why expose dump site operators and the public along transportation routes TWICE?

According to my research, the Skull Valley is already surrounded by several toxic facilities. Would there be synergistic effects (on the nearby people and environment) of the radiation with the other toxic compounds? Has this been studied?

ADM03

CRIDS-03
add Scott Flanders
(SCF)

Template ADM03

The NRC should not go forward with this plan because the communities along the route of transportation have not been given adequate information about this plan, nor have they been given the opportunity to attend public hearings to express their feelings. Those who bear the risk should have input in decisions being made regarding their future health and well being. Hearings should be scheduled in communities along the transportation routes before this greatly flawed plan is ever approved.

The NRC's DEIS does not adequately calculate the costs of cleanup nor of casualties from severe accidents during transportation, or even what doses of radiation the public would receive if there is no accident. These are serious deficiencies that should be addressed.

It is our great concern that this "temporary" dump could eventually become a permanent dump, totally inadequate to keep the environment safe for the thousands of years the fuel rods would remain radioactive. We believe this issue has been inadequately considered.

While the leadership of the Goshute Tribe has consented to this plan, we believe it does not represent the majority of the Goshute peoples' feelings. The way this agreement has come about, we believe violates basic environmental justice guidelines.

We strongly urge an extension of this comment period to enable more people to know about this plan, and to learn the many shortcomings of it. We suggest an extension of at least 60 days. We also urge better publicity of the issues to those who will be most affected.

The whole idea of temporary storage of high level radioactive waste at a location away from reactors is an idea driven more by political and economic pressure from utilities than from common sense. We urge you to abandon the idea of temporary storage of radioactive waste ANYWHERE.

Sincerely,

Patricia Birnie, Chair

Submit2: Submit comments

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