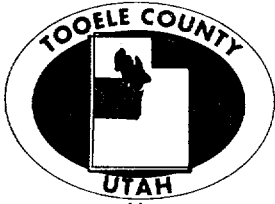


65 FR 39206  
June 23, 2000

(206)



**TOOELE COUNTY COMMISSION**

Tooele County Courthouse, 47 South Main, Tooele, Utah 84074

Phone: (435) 843-3150 ♦ FAX (435) 843-3400

September 18, 2000

RECEIVED  
200 SEP 22 PM 3:25  
Rules and Directives  
Branch  
USNRC

Chief, Rules and Directives Branch  
Mail Stop T-6D 59  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Dear Sir or Madam:

The Tooele County Commission would like to go on record as opposing requests to extend for 180 days the public comment period on the Private Fuel Storage draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). We believe that such requests, which have been made by the state of Utah and other groups opposed to the project, are politically motivated. Such an extension would delay the licensing process and is unlikely to result in new information, but would only give opponents more time to repeat the same objections over and over.

While we firmly support the open, public process that encourages public input at several points during the NRC's consideration of the license application, we believe the NRC has provided adequate opportunities for input on the DEIS. The comment period was actually longer than required by law, and representatives of NRC and cooperating agencies listened to comments at four different sessions over three days, for a total of about 15 hours. In addition, to the oral comments, the NRC has invited written comments for 90 days.

The state of Utah in its fervor to stop or delay this project has pressured not only its government employees, but also the independent Board of Radiation Control, to adopt the state's position in requesting an unnecessary extension of the comment period. The Radiation Control Board is supposed to use its collective knowledge and expertise to carefully weigh factual evidence and make decisions on matters involving radiological safety. When the state's representative Connie Nakahara asked the Radiation Control Board to take a position and request an extension it was wholly inappropriate since the vote was not an agenda item, and since the issue itself is unrelated to the Board's mission.

**Commissioners:** Teryl Hunsaker, Chairman; Gary M. Griffith, Dennis L. Rockwell  
**Administrative Assistant:** Cheryl Adams

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"The Best of Both Worlds"

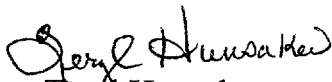
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Add Scott Klandus  
(SCF)

Page Two  
Letter to Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
September 18, 2000

An extension of the comment period would do little to facilitate carefully considered analysis and comment on environmental issues, but would only allow more time for political campaigning to stop the project. Furthermore, an extension would likely delay the final EIS, which would prolong the licensing process. This facility will benefit Tooele County, as well as the Skull Valley Band of Goshute Indians. We are eager to see it licensed and built.

Sincerely,

TOOELE COUNTY COMMISSION

  
Teryl Hunsaker,  
Chairman

  
Gary M. Griffith

  
Dennis L. Rockwell

cc: Mark Delagotti, Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Congressman James Hansen  
Senator Robert Bennett  
Senator Orrin Hatch