

June 16, 1998

Dr. Edward Y. Shum, Environmental Protection Manager
Spent Fuel Licensing Section, Spent Fuel Project Office
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Dr. Shum,

Downwinders, Inc. submits for the record the following comments for the Scoping process for the Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Private Fuel Storage bid to construct and operate a high level nuclear waste storage facility at the Skull Valley Indian Reservation in Tooele County, Utah.

The NRC should examine in full the following issues and concerns in preparing the Draft EIS:

1) Careful and full evaluation of ALL viable alternatives for the storage and ultimate disposition of spent nuclear fuel, as required by NEPA. This should include options for remediation and treatment - now and in the future - by chemical, biological, or reprocessing, or other physical means. An analysis of alternative technologies as possible solutions to the problems associated with the accumulating inventory of spent fuel should not be done simply through incorporation by reference of previous studies, as research in these areas is dynamic and proposals for reprocessing are now being considered. The alternative of temporary dry cask, above ground storage as proposed by PFS should include analysis of this storage becoming permanent, and should include analysis of this site and method being utilized for 100% or the entire industry spent fuel inventory, as there are no guarantees or restrictions preventing an expansion of the PFS consortium to include all nuclear utilities in the future. Temporary or permanent storage at the proposed facility should be compared with the alternatives for deep geologic disposal. The No Action Alternative must be examined in full detail.

2) Cumulative impacts analysis is required by NEPA, but is rarely done or done adequately. It must be in this DEIS. Cumulative impacts analysis should include the socio-economic impacts not only upon the Skull Valley and Tooele County, but upon the state of Utah and upon all communities affected by the removal of spent fuel from those communities and upon all communities affected by the transportation of spent fuel. The local cumulative impacts analysis should examine potential conflicts with shipment, testing, processing, and/or storage of other hazardous and radioactive materials in the area, such as low level radioactive waste disposal, hazardous chemical incineration and disposal, chemical weapons demilitarization, chemical and biological weapons testing. Conflicts with military and NASA programs and activities must be analyzed.

3) Issues pertaining to environmental racism must be examined.

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4) The DEIS must address geotechnical concerns, including faulting/earthquakes, ground motion, soils stability, and hydrology. Possible effects from flooding and fires should be analyzed.

5) All issues pertaining to cask loading and cask safety must be examined.

6) Security issues to be examined include measures to be taken to prevent attack by terrorists or acts of sabotage against casks in transit or in storage. Security concerns must also be examined for the other alternatives, including the No Action Alternative, and should address current security issues inside and outside the gates of existing nuclear power plants and on-site cask storage facilities.

7) Emergency response plans, evacuation plans, training and equipping of first responders, and related issues must be analyzed in detail for all alternatives.

8) Legal issues, including liability and immunity, and sovereignty must be examined.

9) Measures to be taken to assure radiological protection of workers and the general public in all phases of the proposed program and in all alternatives to the proposed program should be addressed fully.

As Always,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Steve Erickson".

Steve Erickson

Downwinders

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