

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: 04/05/01 EDO CONTROL: G20010113
DOC DT: 03/21/01
FINAL REPLY:

Harry Rogers
Carolina Peace Resource Center

et al.

TO:

Chairman Meserve

FOR SIGNATURE OF : ** GRN ** CRC NO: 01-0167

Virgilio, NMSS

DESC:

Meeting Sites for Public Concerns on Mixed Oxide
"MOX"

ROUTING:

Travers
Paperiello
Kane
Norry
Reiter
Craig
Burns/Cyr
Lohaus, STP
Reyes, RII

DATE: 03/22/01

ASSIGNED TO: CONTACT:
NMSS Virgilio

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

Add OGC on for concurrence.

Commission to review response prior to dispatch.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

EDO

Date Printed: Mar 26, 2001 14:04

PAPER NUMBER: LTR-01-0167 LOGGING DATE: 03/22/2001
ACTION OFFICE: EDO ✓

AUTHOR: Harry Rogers
AFFILIATION:
ADDRESSEE: RICHARD MESERVE
SUBJECT: Concerns meeting sites for public concerns on mixed oxide "MOX"

ACTION: Signature of EDO
DISTRIBUTION: CHAIRMAN, COMRS

LETTER DATE: 03/21/2001

ACKNOWLEDGED No

SPECIAL HANDLING:

NOTES: EDO to coordinate with OGC
COMMISSION TO REVIEW PRIOR TO DISPATCH

FILE LOCATION: ADAMS

DATE DUE: 04/09/2001 DATE SIGNED:

March 21, 2001

Dr. Richard Meserve
Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Chairman Meserve,

We are writing to register our strong opposition to an action of the Commission that we consider a violation of public trust.

In the March 6th announcement regarding the scoping process for the Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed mixed oxide (MOX) fuel fabrication facility, only two public meetings are mentioned: one in North Augusta SC and one in Savannah GA. Due to strong public concern about MOX in directly-impacted communities, meetings should also be held in Charlotte, NC, Columbia, SC, and Atlanta, GA.

Both publicly and privately representatives of the Commission have assured concerned citizens that any further public meetings on MOX would provide an opportunity for broader public input.

Publicly the NRC has stated:

"Our intent at this point is to have scoping meetings at three locations, one in Augusta Georgia near the Savanna River Site; also in Savannah, Georgia and Charlotte, North Carolina. The Charlotte, North Carolina site is so that we can get public input from people in the vicinity of the two reactors that will end up using this fuel."

--Mr. Tim Johnson, Backup Project Manager for the MOX Fuel Fabrication Facility Project, statement before NRC Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, 2/2/01

At this meeting and at the public meetings conducted by the NRC in Columbia South Carolina in July, 2000, the Commission went on record stating their willingness to widen the public participation process.

It is unacceptable that in its first opportunity to make good on that assurance the NRC has instead returned to the practice of siting meetings in limited locations which will seriously inhibit discussion and input from the public.

Every public meeting on the proposed MOX project has been well attended. These include public hearings and meetings conducted by the organizations signing this letter as well as those held at the request of South Carolina State Senator Phil Leventis.

We have clearly demonstrated that MOX is of concern to the public beyond the areas designated by your current proposed public meetings. Some of the most sustained public interest has been in locations where the MOX program will have a significant impact, namely, the reactor

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communities near Charlotte, NC and Columbia, SC; and Atlanta, GA, where plutonium transportation for the program is of particular concern.

We therefore request that, at a minimum, public meetings on the scoping process for the MOX Fabrication Facility EIS be held in these locations in addition to the locations already announced. If NRC fails to hold meetings in these three communities, we intend to vigorously protest this clear violation of the public participation process mandated by United States law and outlined in your own regulatory responsibilities.

Sincerely,

Harry Rogers
Nuclear Issues Coordinator
Carolina Peace Resource Center
Columbia SC

Catherine Mitchell
Plutonium Organizer
Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League
Charlotte, NC

Ed Arnold
Executive Director
Atlanta Physicians for Social Responsibility
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Pat Ortmeier
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