

April 19, 2001

Mr. Harry Rogers, Nuclear Issues Coordinator
Carolina Peace Resource Center
305 S. Salda Avenue
Columbia, SC 29205

SUBJECT: SCOPING MEETINGS FOR THE MIXED OXIDE FUEL FABRICATION
FACILITY ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Dear Mr. Rogers:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff received your letter, dated March 21, 2001, regarding our scoping process for the environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed Mixed Oxide (MOX) Fuel Fabrication Facility (FFF). In your letter you requested that we hold public scoping meetings in Charlotte, NC; Columbia, SC; and Atlanta, GA; in addition to those scheduled for North Augusta, SC, on April 17, and Savannah, GA, on April 18. Your request was based on your concern with the potential use of MOX fuel in reactors, and transportation issues.

In an attempt to get broader public input, we believe another meeting is warranted, and that Charlotte is the most appropriate location for that meeting. Therefore, we plan to hold an additional scoping meeting for the MOX FFF EIS in the Charlotte area on May 8th. A Federal Register Notice announcing the location and schedule will be issued shortly. The other meeting locations (North Augusta, SC, and Savannah, GA) were chosen to allow public input from individuals living near the proposed MOX FFF, or downstream of the facility. We believe that by holding meetings in these three areas, we should obtain sufficiently broad public input from the people who would be most affected if the MOX FFF is constructed and operated. Therefore, no meetings are planned for Columbia, SC, or Atlanta, GA.

Please note that the specific purpose of these meetings is to gather public input to start the process of preparing an EIS for the proposed action, which is the construction and operation of the proposed MOX FFF, including direct and indirect impacts. We have not yet received any license amendment applications from reactor licensees requesting authority to use MOX fuel; therefore, we will not be able to respond to specific questions regarding planned reactor use; however, we will be prepared to discuss the license amendment review process. Reactor site-specific issues will be more appropriately addressed later as part of any reactor license

H. Rogers

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amendment review(s). As we stated in our December 14, 2000, letter, to L.E. Patrie, one of your signatories, "...the NRC plans to hold public meetings in the vicinity of the reactor sites to receive public input on the applications to utilize MOX fuels at Catawba and McGuire; however, the location and schedules for these meetings will not be established until an application is received from Duke Power."

If you have any further questions, please contact Charlotte Abrams of my staff, at (301) 415-7293.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Martin J. Virgilio, Director
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No.: 70-3098

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