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**To:** <teh@nrc.gov>  
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Add = T. HARRIS (TEH)

May 21, 2001

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Pine Street

Kutztown, PA 19530 Dear Sir:

The

following are the comments of the Berks Group of the Sierra Club on the MOX EIS Scoping. We urge the NRC to support the "No Action Alternative" in this EIS. We prefer the ceramic immobilization of weapons plutonium which would keep it out of commercial and international circulation. MOX fuel generates a huge array of problems, some of which are due to the varied designs of reactors. The Duke Power ice condenser reactors, for example, have particularly weak physical containment structures and are therefore especially unsuitable for MOX fuel. Also MOX compounds the hazards of transport, storage and disposal. A MOX factory is likely to become a reprocessing plant as well with its attendant transport issues. Producing MOX generates yet more waste including millions of gallons of alpha-emitting liquid waste. MOX fuel increases all hazards of reactor operation. A core breach accident would result in 25-50% more cancer deaths and this is unacceptable. MOX increases all nuclear liabilities, the private part of which is limited by the Price-Anderson Act. Taxpayers must not be subjected to the increased liability of MOX. Finally the NRC is not qualified to regulate and oversee weapons grade plutonium and this should be a sufficient reason to select the No Action Alternative.

Sincerely,

Phila

Back, Chair, Berks Group of the Sierra Club

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