

NATURE SAVER™ FAX MEMO 01616

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To	TIM HARRIS		
From	Joe Pribisko		
Co./Dept.	WRITTEN COMMENT TO MOX		
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May 10, 2001

The Vice-President
United States Senate

66-FR-13794
3/7/01

Dear Mr. Vice President,

(45)

I am grateful for your appointment as the "Terrorism Czar". Your desire to serve the citizens of the USA is appreciated.

Please allow me to express my concerns about a proposed action I believe will literally deliver nuclear materials into the hands of terrorists. The DOE and a consortium of nuclear power industry companies, (DCS), plan to utilize plutonium obtained from nuclear weapons for fuel in commercial nuclear power reactors. The intent is to prevent proliferation by decreasing the available stockpile of plutonium.

With the re-establishment of a missile defense proposal, I believe a message has been delivered to international terrorists. We will rightfully spend billions of dollars for needed defense against "rough missiles". However, would not the terrorists adjust their strategy of attack due to the decreased likelihood of successful delivery of their offshore weapons? I believe terrorists will place a greater emphasis on, and certainly a larger proportion of their funding for terrorism within our borders. With this in mind, allowing hundreds of interstate shipments of plutonium does not appear to be in the best interest of national security.

Again, the reason stated by the DOE/DCS for the use of the plutonium is not due to the need for additional nuclear fuel for commercial power generation, but to prevent proliferation! By allowing the extensive transportation of the plutonium required by this proposed project, we will greatly increase the opportunity for diversion by terrorists.

With the combined expense of processing, transporting, security, and waste disposal, I believe the plutonium fuel alternative could not be considered a cost-effective solution. Please evaluate the consequences; and inform the DOE and NRC to divert the funding for processing and transportation to the development of greatly needed solutions to waste disposal and increased security.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and best wishes for your successful tenure.

Best Regards,
Joe Pribisko
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cc: NRC

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