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November 13, 2001
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
RULEMAKINGS AND
ADJUDICATIONS STAFFUNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONBefore the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board

In the Matter of)	
)	
PRIVATE FUEL STORAGE L.L.C.)	Docket No. 72-22
)	
(Private Fuel Storage Facility))	ASLBP No. 97-732-02-ISFSI

FOURTH JOINT REPORT ON THE STATUS OF
FEDERAL LAWSUIT SKULL VALLEY BAND v. LEAVITT

Pursuant to the June 14, 2001 order of the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board ("Board"),¹ Applicant Private Fuel Storage, L.L.C. ("PFS"), the Skull Valley Band of Goshute Indians ("Skull Valley Band"), and the State of Utah ("State" or "Utah") jointly submit this report on the status of the federal lawsuit, Skull Valley Band of Goshute Indians v. Leavitt, Case No. 2:01CV00270C (D. Utah, filed Apr. 19, 2001).² On April 13, 2001, the State filed Contention Security-J, Law Enforcement ("Security-J"), which contended that PFS is unable to comply with the regulatory mandate that a "[d]ocumented liaison with a designated response force or local law enforcement agency (LLEA) must be established to permit timely response to unauthorized penetration or activities," 10 C.F.R. § 73.51(d)(6), because recently-adopted Utah legislation prohibits any state or local government entity from entering into such an agreement relative to the PFS facility. Order at

¹ Private Fuel Storage, L.L.C. (Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation), LBP-01-20, 53 NRC 565 (2001) (Deferring Admissibility Ruling on Late-Filed Contention Security-J) ("Order").

² Because Monday November 12, 2001, was a federal holiday, the parties are filing this joint report on November 13, 2001 instead of November 12, 2001, previously computed to be the filing date for this report.

1. The Board deferred any ruling on the State's request to admit Security-J, pending resolution of the federal district court litigation in which the Skull Valley Band and PFS contest the constitutionality of the Utah legislation, or further order of the Board. Order at 2. In order to monitor that proceeding to determine whether any developments would warrant further Board action on the contention pending a court ruling, the Board requested PFS, the Skull Valley Band, and the State to file periodic joint reports on the status of the lawsuit. Id. at 9. The first report was due on June 29, 2001; subsequent reports are due every 45 days thereafter. Id.

On June 29, the parties filed their initial report on the status of the litigation as required by the Board's June 14, 2001 Order.³ In that report, the parties noted that the Board had before it a copy of the federal complaint, which had been filed by PFS and the Skull Valley Band on April 19, 2001,⁴ and that by joint stipulation the parties to the federal litigation had agreed that the State defendants had until July 18, 2001 to file their answer to the complaint.

On August 13, 2001 the parties filed their second joint report on the status of the litigation.⁵ In that report, the parties noted that, on July 18, 2001, the State defendants filed their answer to the complaint as well as a counterclaim against PFS and a demand for a jury trial, and that on August 8, 2001 the State defendants filed an amended counterclaim adding the Skull Valley Band as a defendant to the counterclaim.

³ Joint Report on the Status of Federal Lawsuit Skull Valley Band v. Leavitt (June 29, 2001).

⁴ PFS attached a copy of the Complaint to its response to Utah's request to admit Utah Security-J. See Applicant's Response to State of Utah's Request for Admission of Late-filed Contention Utah Security J—Law Enforcement, dated April 27, 2001.

⁵ Second Joint Report on the Status of Federal Lawsuit Skull Valley Band v. Leavitt (August 13, 2001).

On September 28, 2001 the parties filed their third joint report on the status of the litigation.⁶ In that report, the parties noted that, on August 27, 2001, PFS and the Band had filed their reply to the Amended Counterclaim. The parties also reported that on September 20, 2001 the State Defendants had filed a Motion for Judgment on the Pleadings arguing that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission lacks statutory authority to license a private, away-from-reactor spent fuel storage facility, to which PFS's and the Band's response would be due October 9, 2001.

Upon request of the Board,⁷ on October 24, 2001 the parties, filed an interim joint report on the status of the litigation.⁸ In that report the parties reported that there had been no change concerning the status of the litigation from that previously reported except that (1) the parties had stipulated that PFS's and the Band's response to the State Defendants Motion for Judgment on the Pleadings would be due November 8, 2001, and (2) counsel for the State Defendants had requested by letter dated October 11, 2001 a Rule 26(f) meeting of the parties.

On November 8, 2001, PFS and the Band filed their opposition to the State Defendants' Motion for Judgment on the Pleadings, arguing both that the District Court lacks jurisdiction under the Hobbs Act to entertain the Defendants' challenge to the NRC's jurisdiction and that the Commission has full authority under the Atomic Energy Act to license a private, away-from-reactor spent fuel storage facility. Also, the United States Department of Justice has filed an Unopposed Motion for Extension of Time to File a Brief as Amicus Curiae until January 8, 2002 in order "to allow the United States

⁶ Third Joint Report on the Status of Federal Lawsuit Skull Valley Band v. Leavitt (September 28, 2001).

⁷ Memorandum and Order (Schedule for Filings Relating to Representation for Intervenor Skull Valley Band of Goshute Indians) (October 11, 2001).

⁸ Interim Joint Report on the Status of Federal Lawsuit Skull Valley Band v. Leavitt (October 24, 2001).

to determine whether to file a brief as amicus curiae" on behalf of the NRC with respect to the issues raised in the State Defendants' Motion for Judgment on the Pleadings. Further, counsel for the parties have agreed to hold a Rule 26(f) conference of the parties on November 15, 2001.

PFS, the Skull Valley Band, and the State will submit their next joint status report to the Board on or before December 28, 2001.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: November 13, 2001

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Before the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board

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PRIVATE FUEL STORAGE L.L.C.)	Docket No. 72-22
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the Fourth Joint Report on the Status of Federal Lawsuit Skull Valley Band v. Leavitt were served on the persons listed below (unless otherwise noted) by e-mail with conforming copies by U.S. mail, first class, postage pre-paid, this 13th day of November, 2001.

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