



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

July 25, 2002

Ms. Suzy Kneeland and
Mr. Jim Laybourn
P.O. Box 11951
Jackson, WY 83002

SUBJECT: SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL SHIPMENT CONCERNS

Dear Ms. Kneeland and Mr. Laybourn:

Thank you for your recent correspondence expressing concerns about shipments of spent nuclear fuel along rail routes that could pass through Wyoming to a proposed interim storage facility in Utah. The proposed Private Fuel Storage Facility (PFSF), is described in an application currently under adjudication before the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB).

As part of its environmental review process, the NRC in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Interior's Bureau of Land Management and Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the U.S. Surface Transportation Board, issued a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) in June of 2000 and provided a 90-day public comment period. A 90-day comment period was longer than the 45 day period that is usually provided. In addition, the NRC staff conducted public meetings in Salt Lake City, UT, on July 27 and August 21, 2000, and in Grantsville, UT, on July 28, 2000. These were publically noticed meetings (on the NRC website, and in local newspapers) that were open to any citizens to attend. Approximately 145 people provided oral comments on the DEIS during these meetings, and in total, over 4,000 written and oral comments were received by NRC. A final EIS was developed, taking into consideration the public comments received. The FEIS was issued in December of 2001.

Most recently, adjudicatory hearings were conducted both in Salt Lake City, UT, and in the Washington, DC, area. At the Utah hearings, the public was given two opportunities to provide detailed concerns on any subject associated with the proposed PFSF. These limited appearance statement meetings were held in Salt Lake City and in Grantsville.

We acknowledge your request to conduct public hearings in Wyoming to provide an opportunity for further public comment on the NRC EIS. However, please note the NRC has met and exceeded its regulatory requirement to seek public input to its licensing process for the PFSF application. You have provided no basis for the NRC to reopen a DEIS comment period or provide an opportunity for an additional hearing and therefore, no NRC actions are being initiated.

S. Kneeland, et al.

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I thank you for your comments and suggest that you visit the NRC website to obtain further information on the status of the licensing of the proposed facility.

Sincerely,

/RA/

E. William Brach, Director
Spent Fuel Project Office
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No. 72-22

July 25, 2002

S. Kneeland, et al.

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I thank you for your comments and suggest that you visit the NRC website to obtain further information on the status of the licensing of the proposed facility.

Sincerely,

(Original Signed by M. W. Hodges for:)

E. William Brach, Director
Spent Fuel Project Office
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No. 72-22

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