



Action For a Clean Environment

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TESTIMONY ON THE MOX DRAFT EIS FOR SAVANNAH RIVER SITE
AUGUSTA, GA. 3/26/03
BY ACTION FOR A CLEAN ENVIRONMENT, ALTO GA.

People in this country expect to trust their government. After all, it is a democracy. Under other forms of government, people know not to trust official government statements – those governments could be telling lies

In this case the Nuclear Regulatory Commission is telling us that there is very little danger from exposing people to accidental emissions produced by a MOX plant. Then it turns out that the Draft EIS contained large computer errors, and that there would be far fewer than the estimated 400 deaths in a population living within 50 miles of the plant. And anyhow this was a minority low-income community. And furthermore, the new data will not be available until after the public meetings. But trust us – we are your democratic government. Would we lie to you?

This reminds me of another campaign, also concerning radioactive materials. Years ago the NRC told us that a little bit of radioactivity in our cooking pots, our bicycles, our paper clips, our appliances would not hurt us one bit. The level of radioactivity would be so low it would be "Below Regulatory Concern."

We found out there is no way you could tell how much radioactivity people would be exposed to once they were surrounded by such little bits if the little bits were scattered around randomly.

I once adopted a cat that the owner said was just a little tiny bit pregnant. That cat produced four good sized kittens right on schedule.

It is hard to believe that the Savannah River Site, already the most radioactively polluted Dept. of Energy site, would even be considered for a process that can only produce more radioactive pollution -- especially when there is an alternative.

Would you rather live and work near ancient tanks already leaking radioactive nitric acid, attractive only to saboteurs and terrorists, OR near glass logs in which nuclear waste is immobilized, out of reach for any re-use, providing safe jobs, leaving no mess behind? How about a real comparison of the pros and cons, NRC? Before a decision is made on this DEIS?

Think about the perils of transporting plutonium across the country, then taking the MOX fuel to reactors, all of which is subject to accidents and the possibility of spreading

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radioactive stuff in city centers and people's backyards Think of weapons-grade plutonium out there waiting to be grabbed

A conscientious examination of the facts might produce a decision that would restore some of our trust in our government. That is a conclusion devoutly to be wished.

Adele Kushner, Executive Director
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Alto GA