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DOCKETED
USNRC

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OFFICE OF SECRETARY
DOCKETING & SERVICE
BRANCH

April 18, 1994

The Office of the Secretary
Attention: Docketing and Service Branch
U.S.N.R.C.
Washington, D. C. 20555

SEIVED APR 26 1994

Dear Sir:

As members of the Gore, Vian, and Webbers Falls communities and as members of SAFEST (Sequoyah Advocates For Environmentally Sound Technology) in accordance with 10 CFR 2.715A, we request that our letter be considered and read into the record in the hearing concerning the Decommissioning Funding of SFC.

The future economic growth of the communities of Gore, Vian, and Webbers Falls may be detrimentally impacted by a decision demanding unrealistic funding conditions. Such a decision quite probably would force SFC into a declaration of bankruptcy, opening the door to the unwelcome prospect of making the site a Superfund site. At present, SAFEST has been working diligently to interest other industries into locating in our area. Part of our effort has included the possibility of utilizing land owned by SFC but not involved with the decontamination or decommissioning process. This SFC land offers an attractive potential because of its location and access to all forms of transportation, power, and water. Our communities have been struggling economically since the closure of SFC. We need new industry to have any expectations of recovering. If SFC becomes a Superfund Site our hopes of attracting new industry to the site will fall to the stigma and the tangle of red tape that accompanies such situations.

At this time, due to SAFEST's limited financial resources, we do not intend to petition to intervene in this particular proceeding. However, we feel it is imperative that the ASLB be made aware that NACE represents only a very small fraction of the population in the immediate vicinity of the SFC plant and the Gore, Vian, and Webbers Falls communities. On the other hand, SAFEST represents a membership of over 400 with approximately 300 living in the three communities surrounding SFC. SAFEST also speaks on behalf of over 1000 area residents who signed a petition stating that NACE does not represent them. NACE's lack of broad support in our area is one factor we would like you to

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take into consideration before you weigh NACE's position in this hearing too heavily.

SAFEST is also disturbed by NACE's blatant tactics of harassment of SFC and its staff, and its cavalier use of lies and distortions in its press releases, reports, and public statements. The decommissioning of SFC should be based on the facts and sound technical decisions, not emotional hype.

Additionally, NACE is costing not only SFC but the government (and us taxpayers) over a million dollars in litigation costs which appear to us to have added no value to the process of decommissioning. We believe that the evidence supports our position that NACE should not be allowed to continue as a party in this proceeding.

We are also deeply concerned about what we feel to be a definite conflict of interest with which NACE may be involved. One of NACE's major sponsors is The Cherokee Nation. In Oklahoma The Cherokee Nation is considered the leading agency for the Inter-Tribal Environmental Council to procure services in accordance with the initiatives of the Superfund Accelerated Cleanup Model. It is our understanding that Superfund sites on Tribal or member Tribe land, or impacting such land, or impacting an Indian population, falls under their jurisdiction. As a major agency working with the EPA, obviously they would financially benefit from SFC being included as a Superfund Site. Although SFC is not on Tribal land, it has already been ascertained through NACE's intervention petitions that SFC activities could impact the Arkansas Riverbed which is claimed as belonging to The Cherokee Nation. Therefore, their precedent for making this claim has already been established.

Finally, we ask that hearings related to this and subsequent proceedings be held in the Gore area. This will allow maximum participation by all affected citizens, most of whom could not travel to Washington, D.C. to participate.

SAFEST wants assurance that SFC will be thoroughly and properly decommissioned, however, we feel that NRC could work with SFC to find a solution which will not force SFC into bankruptcy. It is abundantly clear to us that we must demand that the decommissioning be correctly completed and that our economic future not be contaminated in the process. We ask you to weigh the consequences of your ruling to our communities and to take responsibility for them.

Respectfully,

Angie Ellis

SAFEST Members

Angie Ellis, Sec./Treas.

cc: Judge Gleason, Chairman of ASLB

Copies of this letter are also being sent to:

Rep. Mike Synar
Sen. David Boren
Sen. Don Nickles
Chairman Ivan Selin, U.S.N.R.C.
Office of Commission Appellate Adjudication
Secretary of Energy, Hazel O'Leary
Mr. Joe Callan, Administrator NRC, Reg. IV
Vice President Al Gore
Pres. Bill Clinton

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

In the Matter of

SEQUOYAH FUELS CORPORATION

(Sequoyah Facility)

Docket No.(s) 40-8027-EA

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing LTR ELLIS (SAFEST) DTD 4/18/94 have been served upon the following persons by U.S. mail, first class, except as otherwise noted and in accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR Sec. 2.712.

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Washington, DC 20555

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Docket No.(s)40-8027-EA
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Dated at Rockville, Md. this
26 day of April 1994



Office of the Secretary of the Commission