

September 16, 2013

Fred Collins
Tribal Administrator
Northern Chumash Tribal Council
67 South Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

SUBJECT: OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON DRAFT GENERIC ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPACT STATEMENT AND PROPOSED RULE TO AMEND 10 CFR 51.23 –
WASTE CONFIDENCE – CONTINUED STORAGE OF SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL

Dear Mr. Collins:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is proposing to amend its regulations in Part 51 to Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) that address the environmental impacts of continued storage of spent nuclear fuel. The proposed rule would revise the generic determination on the environmental impacts of storage of spent nuclear fuel after the end of a reactor's licensed life for operation and prior to ultimate disposal that is contained in 10 CFR 51.23. The NRC has prepared draft NUREG-2157, "Waste Confidence Generic Environmental Impact Statement" (GEIS) to support this rulemaking. The draft GEIS is available in the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) under ADAMS Accession No. ML13224A106. The proposed rule was published in the *Federal Register* on September, 13, 2013. The proposed rule and draft GEIS are posted at www.regulations.gov under Docket ID NRC-2012-0246. The documents may also be found at the NRC's Waste Confidence Web site: www.nrc.gov/waste/spent-fuel-storage/wcd.html. The public comment period ends November 27, 2013.

Enclosed are the Waste Confidence draft GEIS (on CD-ROM) and the proposed rule. The draft GEIS describes the impacts from continued storage of spent nuclear fuel beyond the licensed life for operation of a power reactor and provides the basis for the generic determination contained in the proposed rule. The draft GEIS and proposed rule are provided for your review and comment. If you have any comments on the draft GEIS or the proposed rule, please provide them to the NRC by November 27, 2013. Comments received after this date will be considered if it is practical to do so, but the Commission is able to assure consideration only for comments received on or before November 27, 2013. Information about methods for submitting your comments is available in the enclosed *Federal Register* notice.

The NRC is also planning to hold ten public meetings around the country and two nationally webcast meetings. Meeting locations include Rockville, MD (two webcast meetings that will also be accessible by telephone); Denver, Colorado; San Luis Obispo, CA; Carlsbad, CA; Perrysburg, OH; Minnetonka, MN; Oak Brook, IL; Chelmsford, MA; Tarrytown, NY; Charlotte, NC; and Orlando, FL. Specific details about the meetings can be found in the enclosed meeting notices.

F. Collins

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Requests for hardcopies of the draft GEIS and any questions with respect to this correspondence should be directed to:

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/RA/

Keith I. McConnell, Director
Waste Confidence Directorate
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards

Enclosures:

1. Draft NUREG 2157, "Waste Confidence Generic Environmental Impact Statement"
2. Proposed Rule *Federal Register* Notice
3. NRC *Federal Register* Notice of Availability
4. Waste Confidence Public Meeting Notices

cc: See next page

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