## CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE UMATILLA INDIAN RESERVATION, PENDLETON, OR, JAMES R. WILKINSON
## PAGE 1 OF 1


DEPARTMENT of NATURAL RESOURCES

Special Sciences and Resources Program

CONFEDERATED TRIBES
of the
*Umatilla Indian Reservation*

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30 April 1996

David Nulsen
Director, NEPA Compliance and Outreach
Office of Fissile Materials Disposition
U.S. Department of Energy
MD-4 Forrestal Building
1000 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Subject: EXTEND COMMENT PERIOD ON PLUTONIUM DISPOSITION EIS

Dear Mr. Nulsen:

Technical staff of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Special Sciences and Resources Program (CTUIR/SSRP), formally request a minimum 30-day extension of the public comment period for the Plutonium Disposition Environmental Impact Statement. The current comment period is set to close as of 7 May 1996, and we would request that this be extended until at least 7 June 1996. 1/08.01.00

The basis of this request is DOE's failure to consult with American Indian tribes over this critical issue with profound, far-reaching, and long-term impacts to Tribal communities, particularly in the Western states. Based on the meeting on plutonium disposition held in Seattle this week, it is clear that tribal representatives have not had the time nor opportunity to adequately review the EIS and other relevant information associated with this increasingly complex problem. Tribal communities are likely to be disproportionately affected by whatever plutonium disposition decision eventually results, and therefore, must be fully included throughout the decision process, as required under DOE's American Indian Policy and President Clinton's Executive Order on Environmental Justice.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this request. CTUIR/SSRP staff would like to receive written confirmation of your actions. If there are any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact either me, or Tom Gilmore, SSRP Research Coordinator, at 541-276-0185 (phone) or 541-278-5380 (fax).

Sincerely,

James R. Wilkinson

James R. Wilkinson
Program Manager
Special Sciences and Resources Program
CTUIR Department of Natural Resources

TREATY JUNE 9, 1855 ◆ CAYUSE, UMATILLA AND WALLA WALLA TRIBES

M-202

**08 01 00 Comment Number 1**

At the request of several organizations and individuals, the public comment period was extended to a total of 92 days.