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JUDITH KEEGAN, Chairperson, St. Clair County Board of Commissioners
JEFFREY A. FRIEDLAND, Coordinator

June 4, 1996

U.S. Department of Energy
Office of Fissile Materials Disposition
P.O. Box 23786
Washington D.C. 20026-3786

REF: Storage and Disposition of Weapons Usable Fissile Materials Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement.

I am writing with concern regarding the options presented in the reactor category of disposition alternatives in the above Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement.

It is apparent that the Canadian Deuterium Uranium (CANDU) reactors located near Kincardine, Ontario is a facility that would utilize the plutonium based mixed oxide fuel that could result from the proposed refinement facility in the Washington state. This would create a lengthy transportation route through densely populated areas.

St. Clair County would be included in this transportation route as both Interstates 69 and 94 merge near the Blue Water International Bridge to Ontario. As the emergency management coordinator for the county, I have serious concerns regarding the volumes of traffic on these interstates and the ability of local emergency response units to handle an emergency situation involving the proposed product movement. The current volume of hazardous materials has overwhelmed these units without even considering the proposed hazard. 1/10.00.00

If the CANDU option is one that is seriously being considered, I would strongly urge your Department to consider a transportation route through Canada from a point further west of Michigan as the route through St. Clair County is unacceptable in my opinion.

I thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important issue.

Sincerely

Jeffrey A. Friedland

A Government of Service

M-257

10 00 00 Comment Number 1

Under NEPA, DOE is required to evaluate a range of alternatives for Pu disposition. In that regard, the disposition of Pu in CANDU reactors is one of nine different disposition alternatives analyzed in the PEIS. Six specific sites and a generic site are evaluated for fabricating MOX fuels for Pu disposition. As a result, the transportation analyses performed in the PEIS consider multiple routes from potential MOX fuel fabrication sites to potential reactor sites. Although the Port Huron/Sarnia border crossing is mentioned in the PEIS as a convenient point for the CANDU fuel shipments to pass from the United States to Canada, our analysis also reflects other possible routes.

The Draft PEIS did not identify a Preferred Alternative for Pu disposition. A Preferred Alternative is identified in the Final PEIS and a disposition decision is expected to be made by the end of the year. The decision will take into account environment, safety (including transportation), and health factors, as well as technical, cost, schedule, and nonproliferation considerations. After the ROD (which will include technology approaches), which is expected in late 1996, follow-up analyses, negotiations, and specific agreements over several years will be required before implementation.