April 30, 1996

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U.S. DOE, Office of Reconfiguration
P.O. Box 3417
Alexandria, VA 22302

I am writing to comment on the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement that lays out options for disposing of excess Plutonium and Highly Enriched Uranium from dismantled nuclear weapons.

I am opposed to option #1, the conversion of plutonium and HEU for use as nuclear ~~reactie~~ reactor fuel. Nuclear reactors produce more dangerous waste to dispose of, it encourages the use of weapons usable materials as fuels, thus increasing the chances of proliferation world-wide and building and maintaining reactors will cost billions of dollars. 1/08.03.01

M-205

08 03 01 **Comment Number 1**

The Department of Energy acknowledges the commentor's opposition to the Reactor Alternatives. However, NEPA requires that DOE look at all reasonable alternatives and, therefore, reactor burning must be considered. Decisions on the disposition of weapons-usable fissile materials will be based upon environmental analyses, technical and economic studies, national policy considerations, and public input.

EWALD, LINDA, KNOXVILLE, TN
PAGE 2 OF 2

Options #2 and #3 are also not viable because these wastes are so unstable and long lasting traditional methods for disposal are not applicable. 2/08.03.01

DOE needs a "nuclear waste standard" to adopt a plan to produce the least amount of new radioactive waste. 3/15.00.00

Disposal of nuclear materials should limit the amount of processing and transportation.

I encourage investment in worker and community safety and innovative disposition ideas such as vitrification. 4/08.03.01

Please listen to academics and independent scientists who have community interests in mind. Thank-you very much.

Sincerely,
Linda Ewald

M-205

08 03 01 **Comment Number 2**

The Department of Energy acknowledges the commentor's opposition to the disposition alternatives. Decisions on the disposition of weapons-usable fissile materials will be based upon environmental analyses, technical and economic studies, national policy considerations, and public input.

15 00 00 **Comment Number 3**

Comment noted. Waste minimization is an ongoing goal of DOE and will be considered to the extent practicable in the selection and implementation of the alternative(s).

08 03 01 **Comment Number 4**

The Department of Energy acknowledges the commentor's support for the Immobilization Alternative. Decisions on disposition of weapons-usable fissile materials will be based upon environmental analyses, technical and economic studies, national policy considerations, and public input.