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Storage and Disposition of Weapons-Usable Fissile Materials Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) Public Comment Form

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Please write down your comments and drop this form in the marked boxes before you leave tonight. These forms will be submitted to the Department of Energy as part of the formal comment on this PEIS. If you are unable to complete this form tonight, written comments can be mailed to:

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

or, you can call this toll-free number to leave comments by phone: 1-800-820-5156. Comments must be submitted by May 7, 1996.

The Department of Energy has identified three types of technologies as options for disposing of weapons-usable fissile materials. The Department has also considered a "no action alternative" which would result in long-term storage of these materials. Please write down your comments on the following three types of options for disposal and the storage option.

1. Materials Immobilization/Vitrification - Immobilize fissile materials by mixing them with glass, glass bonded zeolites, or ceramics.

Permanent disposition from the environment & human access are priorities. Immobilization/vitrification directly supports these goals. This is the best alternative prior to deep disposal. 1/08.03.01

2. Deep borehole disposal - Materials would be disposed in boreholes at least 2.5 miles deep, in geologically stable formations. Materials could be disposed directly into the deep borehole, or materials could be immobilized first, and then deposited into the deep borehole.

Deep disposal after immobilization is the best combination for permanent disposal 2/08.03.01

3. Reactor Options - Surplus plutonium/highly enriched uranium would be made into MOX fuel for use in nuclear reactors, destroying by fission a major portion of the weapons grade materials.

Increasing the stockpile of nuclear waste presently without an accepted disposal in the U.S., is foolhardy. This is a bad alternative. 3/08.03.01

4. Storage Options - USDOE would continue existing storage practices for weapons-usable fissile materials at current locations and/or consolidate that storage at one or more of the designated sites.

This alternative avoids nuclear waste generation but does not accomplish permanent removal from society. Not a good alternative. 4/08.03.01

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08 03 01 Comment Number 1

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

08 03 01 Comment Number 2

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

08 03 01 Comment Number 3

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.

08 03 01 Comment Number 4

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

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Please use this space to write down any additional comments on the Storage and Disposition of Weapons-Usable Fissile Materials Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement.

There are 3 priorities:

1. Permanent isolation from the public
2. Permanent isolation from terrorists & military application
3. Avoidance of nuclear waste generation.

Only immobilization with deep disposal meets all three objectives.

Mark J Flomenhoft

2/08.03.01 cont.

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