06-07-96 05:29PM FROM MED-I #2 P01

To FAX 1-800-820-5156

US DOE
Office of Fissile Materials Disposition

6-7-96

I am opposed to the MOX option for fuel for commercial nuclear reactors. | 1/08.03.01

DOE may consider this option as a "waste reduction program". I see it as a new way to increase volumes and radioactivity of the waste from reactors. We are already strapped for dealing with the nuclear utilities' waste. | 2/01.04.00

Would storage of MOX fuel require military presence? Would transport of the fuel require military escorts? I believe the U.S. does not need any more transportation problems related to radioactive materials. | 3/13.00.00

It is my understanding that MOX poses severe proliferation issues. As a resident of the state of Oklahoma I don't take discussions of bomb material lightly. | 4/01.06.00

I urge DOE to reject the misguided MOX option. | 1/08.03.01 cont.

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F-063

08 03 01 Comment Number 1

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

01 04 00 Comment Number 2

The MOX Fuel Option is not a "waste reduction program." It is a means of converting weapons Pu to a form that is difficult to retrieve and reuse in weapons. The MOX Fuel Option does not increase the volumes and radioactivity of waste from existing reactors. It replaces fuel that would have been fabricated from other materials and displaces the spent fuel that would have otherwise been created by other sources of fuel supply. The spent MOX fuel is essentially the same as existing commercial reactor spent fuel. Therefore, it meets the same criteria as other commercial reactor spent fuel in terms of being accepted for placement in a repository.

13 00 00 Comment Number 3

The safeguards and security of storage of the weapons-usable fissile materials will continue to follow existing applicable regulations and requirements. Furthermore, the facilities would be inspectable by IAEA, as appropriate. Transportation impacts are discussed in Section 4.4 and Appendix G of the PEIS. Armed nuclear materials couriers carefully selected and highly trained to operate tractor-trailers and communication systems would be used. These couriers would also be authorized by AEA to carry firearms and make arrests in the performance of their duties. No military personnel would be used in DOE's management of weapons-usable fissile materials.

01 06 00 Comment Number 4

The President's Nonproliferation Policy says the United States will not recycle Pu. Burning weapons Pu in reactors does not utilize the recycling process because the Pu in the spent fuel from this process will not be extracted

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for reuse in new fuel. This is consistent with U.S. policy since no Pu is being recycled. After a once-through fuel cycle, the Pu would be converted to a nonproliferation form as spent reactor fuel.