3902 Loblolly Trail
Martinez, Georgia 30907
May 1, 1996

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

Dear Sir:

I attended the public meeting for the EIS for the Storage and Disposition of Weapons Materials held in North Augusta, SC, on April 31, 1996. Of the three options discussed, storing the materials and then disposing of them as fuel for commercial reactors appears to me to be clearly the preferred and most desirable disposal method. Since some commercial electric utilities are interested in using the materials as fuels, the materials should then be treated as an asset and not as junk or waste as is the apparent assumption used when considering the vitrification or bore hole disposal methods. Considerable sums of taxpayers money have been spent refining these materials. It seems ludicrous to me to spent additional money disposing of the materials without even attempting to recover any asset value that the material now has. 1/08.03.01

Of the three disposal methods, I would consider the bore hole method as being the least desirable. All to often technologies believed to be inherently safe have been found with time to have unwanted attributes. It would seem to me that if after burying these materials in deep holes and an undesirable condition is found after time, recovery of the materials may be close to impossible and very costly at the least. 2/08.03.01

Again, I wish to express my opinion that disposal of the material as fuels for commercial electric power reactors is a much preferred alternative over disposing of the materials as waste.

Joseph M. Gilkison

M-114

08 03 01 Comment Number 1

The Department of Energy acknowledges the commentor's support for Pu disposition in reactors. Decisions on disposition will be made based upon environmental analyses, technical and economic studies, national policy considerations, and public input.

08 03 01 Comment Number 2

The Department of Energy recognizes the commentor's concern with the Borehole Alternatives. Decisions on the disposition alternatives will be based upon environmental analyses, technical and economic studies, national policy considerations, and public input.