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Storage and Disposition of Weapons-Usable Fissile Materials Draft PEIS Public Comment
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I am providing this comment to support the a mixture of options for disposition of weapons-usable fissile materials, specifically plutonium. These are based on the following premises:

- Plutonium should be considered a national asset rather than a liability.
- The disposition should not be disposal.
- The plutonium should be used for maximum realization of its energy value.
- There need not be a rush to achieve ultimate disposition of the plutonium.

The long-term disposition of plutonium should be production of energy. The reactor design should maximize the output of usable energy rather than a short term irradiation to transform some material and isotopically dilute the rest. This need not be achieved in the next decade or two. Research and design could be carried out at a pace that current budgetary limits support. As an analogy, the United States has many crude oil wells that are capped because they are currently uneconomical to pump. However, the will come a time in the future that cheap foreign oil is not available and it will be tapped. Until that time comes for plutonium I support a long term storage alternative. 1/08.03.01

Stabilization of plutonium solutions, scrap and residues per the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) 94-1 Implementation Plan and the Plutonium Vulnerability Management Plan should be vigorously pursued to achieve a form that meets the Criteria for Safe Storage of Plutonium Metals and Oxide. The current inventory of excess plutonium "pits" removed from nuclear weapons when packaged in the AT-400A package will achieve the long term storage standard. The storage standard form is intended to last a minimum of 50 years. This can give the U.S. an adequate period of time to develop the best reactor disposition alternative in a cost-effective manner.

The U.S. should consolidate its excess plutonium storage to a single site under full International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards per the intent of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. If we expect the IAEA to ensure inspected countries are not diverting material, it should be trusted to safeguard American materials. International inspections should be the method by which Americans assure the world that this material will not be reused in weapons. A new storage facility should be built that incorporates the latest and best in monitoring and surveillance techniques. The facility should be expandable in modular fashion to accommodate and facilitate any international agreements for the U.S. to safeguard other countries' inventories. It should be able to be used as a blueprint for building duplicates in other countries. Application and demonstration of exemplary safeguards until eventual disposition use has the highest likelihood of being emulated by foreign governments. 2/08.03.01

F-020

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 acknowledges the commentor's support for new facilities for long-term storage of weapons-usable fissile materials. Decisions on storage of weapons-usable fissile materials will be based upon environmental analyses, technical and economic studies, national policy considerations, and public input.