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May 7, 1996

Mr. J. David Nulton, Director
DOE - Office of Fissile Materials Disposition
c/o SAIC - PEIS
P. O. Box 23786
Washington, DC 20026-3786

Dear Mr. Nulton:

I'd like to offer these comments on the EIS for *Storage and Disposition of Weapons-Usable Fissile Materials.*

The spent fuel standard provides a fundamental basis for much of the proposed action in the EIS. This basis may be flawed without a disposition path for the spent fuel. We shouldn't assume that at some future time we'll merely bury the spent fuel. There is a growing awareness that burying wastes in the earth is a poor option.

Relying on the spent fuel standard needs to be preceded by DOE taking responsibility for closing the spent fuel cycle. It is important to have the disposition path opened before converting the excess weapons plutonium to spend fuel. The benefits gained by making the plutonium unattractive through activation could be grossly outweighed later by difficultly in handling the material. 1/01.02.00

Please consider having the entire plutonium disposition plan in place before activating or mixing the plutonium with radioactive contamination.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this program.

Sincerely,

David C. Losey

David Losey

M-190

01 02 00 Comment Number 1

The ultimate disposition path, an NWPA geologic repository, for the spent fuel would be the same as any spent fuel from nuclear reactors in the United States. Design of the MOX fuel containing weapons-usable Pu is done such that the spent fuel would meet the performance criteria for disposal in an NWPA geologic repository.