



WOMEN'S ACTION FOR NEW DIRECTIONS EDUCATION FUND

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US NRC

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April 4, 2000

Chief, Rules, Review and Directives Branch
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mail Stop 76-D59
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Dear Madam or Sir,

On behalf of Women's Action for New Directions Education Fund (WAND) I am writing to express support for the petition submitted on March 26 2000 by Environmentalists Inc. of Columbia, SC calling for an administrative proceeding into NUREG 1718, Standard Review Plan for the Review of an Application for a Mixed Oxide (MOX) Fuel Fabrication Facility.

Administrative proceedings would allow for greater public understanding of and comment on this very important document that deals with the licensing of a first-of-its-kind plutonium fuel production facility in the United States.

Public understanding of the criteria the Nuclear Regulatory Commission will use to evaluate license applications for construction of this plant is crucial. There is significant and growing public concern over this controversial facility and indeed, the Department of Energy's entire MOX program.

NUREG 1718 represents the first opportunity the public has had to comment on the licensing of a facility central to the MOX program. Full public understanding of this document with the benefit of input from independent experts is paramount. The document on its own and the process for comment as it has been carried out thus far does not allow for the possibility of such understanding. WAND believes administrative proceedings would be a start toward rectifying this situation.

Given the many unresolved technical and procedural questions raised by Environmentalists Inc. and others who have commented on the document, including the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research and the Nuclear Control Institute, NUREG 1718 should undergo administrative proceedings or be withdrawn.

Thank you for consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

[Handwritten signature]

Pat Ortmeyer
WAND Field Director for Nuclear Waste Issues

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Add: Andrew Persin Ko (AXP)

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