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6-23-00

(26)

August 21, 2000

Mr. David Meyer
Chief, Rules and Directives Branch
Division of Freedom of Information and Publications Services
Office of Administration, Mailstop T-6D-59
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Dear Mr. Meyer,

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is in the process of deciding whether or not to approve a license which would allow Private Fuel Storage, a consortium of eastern utility companies, to store spent nuclear fuel rods at the Skull Valley Goshute Reservation. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for this proposal was recently released to the public and the comment period is set to end on September 21, 2000. Given the enormous amount of technical information in the DEIS, we respectfully request that the NRC extend the public comment period for 180 days so that the public will have adequate time to review the document and provide comments on it.

We would also like to request that the various agencies involved in the permitting of this facility hold question and answer sessions at numerous locations in Utah. We feel it is important to have a dialogue so that the public will have a better understanding of the risks involved with transporting and storing this highly radioactive material. Unfortunately, the current format for the hearings does not allow citizens to get answers to their questions, especially if they are general questions not specifically related to the DEIS.

Finally, we would ask that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and other federal agencies hold hearings in the communities along the transportation routes. The hearings should not be limited to those who live in Salt Lake City or in Grantsville. We appreciate that the NRC agreed to hold another hearing in Salt Lake City, but having only two weeks notice about the hearing makes it very difficult for people to clear their schedules in order to attend. Additionally, there are numerous people who live on the transportation route that cannot make it to Salt Lake City. We would ask that all affected communities in Utah as well as other states be included in this process. All of us need to be well informed of the risks of this proposal before we make a decision that could potentially impact our community for thousands of years to come.

Thank you for your consideration of our requests.

Sincerely,

American Association of University Women
Citizens Against Radioactive Waste in Utah
Downwinders
Environmental Justice Foundation
Families Against Incinerator Risk

Nancy Mitchell, State President
Anne Sward Hansen, Executive Director
Preston Truman, Director
Alberta Mason, Executive Director
Jason Groenewold, Director

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Add S. Flanders (scf)

Hawkwatch International
JEDI Women
League of Women Voters
Lupus Foundation of America - Utah/Idaho Chapter
National Council of Jewish Women
Ohngo Gaudadeh Dezia
Save Our Canyons
Sierra Club - Utah Chapter
Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance
U.S. Public Interest Research Group
Utah Progressive Network
Utah Peace Test
Wasatch Clean Air Coalition
West Desert Healthy Environmental Alliance
Wild Utah Forest Campaign
Women Concerned/Utahns United
Women's Actions for New Directions

Howard Gross, Executive Director
Boni Macri, Executive Director
Sandy Peck, Executive Director
Jean Mathews, Executive Director
Kitty Kaplan, President
Margene Bullcreek, Director
Gavin Noyes, Program Director
Cindy King, Chair of Public Health Committee
Larry Yound, Executive Director
Joseph Gordon, Canvass Director
Lorna Vogt, Executive Director
Cynthia Of The Desert, Co-Chair
Kathy Van Dame, Co-Chair
Chip Ward, Chair
Susan Ash, Coordinator
Rosemary Holt, past President
Kimberly Robson, Southwest Coordinator

cc:

Senator Bennett
Senator Hatch
Congressman Cannon
Congressman Cook
Congressman Hansen