



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

September 12, 2000

Ms. Mary Dickson
417 8th Avenue
Salt Lake City, UT 84103

Dear Ms. Dickson:

I am responding to your recent letter to the Office of the Secretary of the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). In your letter, you requested an extension to the public comment period for the "Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Construction and Operation of an Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation on the Reservation of the Skull Valley Band of Goshute Indians and the Related Transportation Facility in Tooele County, Utah," NUREG-1714, dated June 2000. In consultation with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the Surface Transportation Board (the three Federal agencies cooperating with NRC in the development of this DEIS), we have determined that such an extension is not warranted. A 90-day public comment period generally is longer than the time period required by three of the four cooperating Federal agencies for noticing a DEIS prepared under our jurisdictions (see, e.g., 10 CFR 51.73). However, we believe that 90 days is a sufficient time period for review and comment on this document. Some comments have already been received, well in advance of the closing date. There has been ample opportunity for public involvement in the DEIS development process. This has been accomplished through the environmental impact statement scoping process and through the existing extensive public comment period. At the several public DEIS scoping meetings in Salt Lake City (1998 and 1999) and Tooele (1999), Utah, the staff discussed its proposed schedule and provided contact information for parties interested in further information or discussions. The scoping meetings were noticed in the Federal Register (63 Fed. Reg. 24197, 64 Fed. Reg. 18491). Nonetheless, it should also be noted that, to the extent practical, comments received after the close of the comment period will be considered.

If you have further questions in this regard, please contact Mark Delligatti of my staff. Mr. Delligatti is the Senior Project Manager assigned to the review of the Private Fuel Storage, L.L.C.'s application for a license to construct and operate the proposed facility on the Reservation of the Skull Valley Band of Goshute Indians. He can be reached at (301) 415-8518.

Sincerely,

/RA/

E. William Brach, Director
Spent Fuel Project Office
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket 72-22

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Sincerely,
(Original Signed by:)

E. William Brach, Director
Spent Fuel Project Office
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket 72-22

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