

65 FR 39206
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From: Tommy Lee <tommywlee@yahoo.com>
To: <opa@nrc.gov>, <nrcweb@nrc.gov>
Date: Wed, Sep 20, 2000 9:25 PM
Subject: Opposition to the proposed Goshute-PFS Facility in Utah

Dear Nuclear Regulatory Commission Webmaster,

Please pass this email to Dr Richard A. Meserve (Chairman of the NRC) and to Mr David L. Meyer (Chief, Rules Review and Directives Branch, Division of Freedom of Information and Publications Services, Office of Administration, Mail Stop T-6 D-59)...Thank you...TWL

To the Nuclear Regulatory Commission,

I've just finished reading an article entitled, "Nukes for Goshutes?" in the 14 Sep 2000 edition of the "Salt Lake City Weekly" newspaper. I am quite disturbed over the implications of your Agency's pending approval of the Private Fuel Storage (PFS) consortium's request to send 40,000 tons of nuclear waste to the future Goshute Reservation Nuclear Waste Storage Facility in Skull Valley, Utah. It is my understanding that Thursday, 21 Sep 2000 is the last day for public comments on this issue.

While the attention of many Utahns has been diverted to the debate over the Legacy Highway (to be built over certain wetland areas of the Great Salt Lake and north of Salt Lake City), the controversy over the Goshute-PFS Facility has caught my personal attention due to my present position as an employee of Hill Air Force Base.

* As a disclaimer, I must state that the opinions expressed in this email are mine only as a private citizen and *not* necessarily those of the US Department of Defense (DoD), the US Department of the Air Force (USAF), Air Force Materiel Command, Hill Air Force Base, the Ogden Air Logistics Center, or my specific organization at Hill AFB.

The SLC Weekly article mentions that the Hill AFB Test and Training Range is immediately west of the location of the Goshute-PFS Facility. With the training exercises (aircraft, missiles, munitions, etc) conducted by Hill AFB at the TTR in support of the DoD's national defense objectives, the presence of the Goshute-PFS Facility will jeopardize that USAF Mission. With the loss of the TTR, Hill AFB will be in a much weaker position in the inevitable, forthcoming Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC) rounds. This ramification will not aid our Nation's military readiness and logistics posture.

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I, of course, have an obvious self-interest in seeing a denial by your Agency of the proposed Goshute-PFS Facility. I recently became a Hill AFB member after my position transferred from the San Antonio Air Logistics Center at Kelly AFB, which is slated for closure and realignment in July 2001 by the 1995 BRAC. Hill AFB has not only picked up positions from San Antonio, Texas but also positions from the Sacramento (California) Air Logistics Center at McClellan AFB, which, too, is being closed by the 1995 BRAC.

I realize that there are other major, more worthy objections to the Goshute-PFS Facility - such as the internal debate within the economically-poor Goshute Indian Nation itself on whether due process was performed in the original decision-making, the findings by geologists of inactive and active earthquake faults in the vicinity, the unforeseen consequences of an accident and its associated clean-up costs, the perception of Utah as being the 'downwind, dumping grounds of the Mountain West' (per SLC Weekly: "Not only does Utah continue to suffer the long-lasting effects of radiation from atomic testing downwind in Nevada, but it is burdened with the largest air polluter in the United States, two chemical weapons incinerators, two hazardous waste incinerators, a massive radioactive waste landfill, a hazardous waste landfill, the largest stockpile of chemical weapons in the world, a proving ground for biological and chemical warfare, a massive bombing range and an army depot with a large underground plume of carcinogenic water."), etc.

Nevertheless, I must add my small voice to those of many concerned Utahns. I appeal to your Agency to reject the request to establish the Goshute-PFS Facility.

Thank you for providing me the opportunity in doing so.

Sincerely,

Tommy W Lee
360 North 500 West, #103
Bountiful, UT 84010-7093
day phone (801) 586-7150
personal email address: tommywlee@yahoo.com

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