

July 30, 1997

62 FR 36320
July 7, 1997
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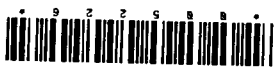
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Mr. David Heyer, Chief
Rules and Directives Branch
Office of Administration
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Comments in Response to 62 Fed. Reg. 36320,
July 7, 1997: Private Fuel Storage, LLC Independent
Spent Fuel Storage Installation; Intent to Establish
Local Public Document Room.

I. It appears that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission
(NRC) intends to establish a site-specific local
Public Document Room (L-PDR) near the Skull
Valley Goshute Indian Reservation in Tooele County,
Utah for records pertaining to a proposed spent
fuel storage installation. The purpose of this L-PDR
would be to provide citizens and local, state, and
federal governments and government agencies
with locally available pertinent licensing documents,
other NRC records, relevant laws and regulations, etc.
so that the public will be kept informed and so that
the public decision making process will be an
informed decision making process.

At this time the NRC should use this opportunity to
take a total, comprehensive look at whether or not
they are satisfying the needs of the citizens of
Utah, local government, and state and federal
agencies within Utah, for complete and timely
locally available information regarding facilities
in Utah which are licensed by the NRC. The NRC
should respond to the tremendous need for publicly
available information at all sites licensed by the NRC
in Utah, not just at the proposed spent fuel
storage installation.



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Here in Utah there are five major facilities licensed by the NRC: two active uranium mill sites (White Mesa and Tubaoo), two inactive uranium mill sites (Moab and Tubaoo), and a low level waste site (Tooele County). The NRC has oversite over three sites (South Salt Lake, Green River, and Mexican Hat) and will eventually license these Title I sites after the Department of Energy completes reclamation. There is currently public controversy regarding three of these sites (White Mesa, Moab, and Tooele County).

Yet in all of Utah there is not one place where anyone can go to view all of the licensing documents for anyone of these facilities. Not only that the NRC has never ever taken the trouble to make sure that the citizens of the communities near the NRC licensed facilities were made aware of how to access indexes of NRC licensing documents, how to access the licensing documents themselves and in general, how to understand and make use of all aspects of the NRC's system for making NRC records available to the public. The same is true for interested local governments, state and even federal agencies within Utah.

Hundreds of NRC records have been retrofitted to the NRC's document control system for Utah licensees since the close of the Uranium Recovery Field Office (URFO) in 1994. Despite this continuing retrofit, licensing documents including some relied upon and referenced by an Environmental Assessment and a license itself, are still not publicly available.

lack of information and misinformation pervades the whole public process. An uninformed citizenry has been the foundation of public participation in Atomic Energy Commission and NRC decision making processes for over 40 years. This sad situation must be concretely addressed by the NRC in conjunction with its proposal to inform some Utah citizens with regard one proposed new NRC licensed nuclear facility. If not now, when?

Therefore, I would recommend that:

1. The NRC respond to the need for locally available NRC records at all NRC licensed facilities in Utah not just at the proposed facility at the Skull Valley goshute Indian Reservation.

2. The NRC establish two generic local Public Document Rooms in Utah, one in Tooele County or Salt Lake City, one in Hoab or Blanding.

3. The NRC establish site-specific LPDRs for those sites more than 50 miles from a generic LPDR.

4. Title I records be housed in the nearest LPDR.

II. The Federal Register notice of July 7 1997 states that copies of comments received may be examined at the NRC Public Document Room in Washington, D.C. The notice should, but does not, inform readers that an index of comments received and copies of the comments themselves can be ordered from the Public Document Room.

Comments to 62 Fed. Reg. 36320

The notice also should have included the PDR's watts line. This information should be included in all NRC Federal Register notices which refer readers to information available at the PDR.

Thank you,

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