



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

May 13, 1999

Mr. Thomas Gann, Director
Indian Health Center
P.O. Box 160
Ft. Duchesne, UT 84026

Dear Mr. Gann:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs and U.S. Bureau of Land Management, is preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS) on an independent spent fuel storage installation proposed by Private Fuel Storage, L.L.C. The proposed facility would be located on the reservation of the Skull Valley Band of Goshute Indians. As part of this EIS, the three agencies are required by their regulations to address the impacts of the proposed facility on environmental justice. As advised by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), the EIS should discuss whether there are disproportionately high adverse environmental impacts (including socioeconomic impacts) on minority and low income communities as a result of constructing and operating the proposed facility. The analysis needs to consider whether potential adverse impacts could arise from construction, normal operations, or accidents. The analysis should consider all potential environmental pathways by which impacts could occur. The evaluation should be done with an understanding of current and historical economic, environmental, and health conditions of this population. We are particularly interested in the Skull Valley Band of Goshute Indians, since this group qualifies as a minority and low income population within the meaning of an environmental justice analysis.

We believe that much of the information needed by the three agencies to assess environmental justice could best be answered through contacts between the NRC and medical personnel or researchers who work with the Skull Valley Band of Goshute Indians. In following the CEQ guidelines, NRC needs the following aggregate population information:

- Any significant existing health risks to this population, particularly as a result of exposure to multiple environmental hazards.
- Any history of health problems (especially clusters of unusual diseases) significantly greater than those of the majority population in Utah and in the Tooele County area or those of Native Americans elsewhere.
- Any pre-existing medical conditions or health status in the group that would put them at significantly greater risk than the majority population in Utah and in the Tooele County area or those of Native Americans elsewhere.
- Any known differences in diet or cultural practices and customs that would leave this group significantly more vulnerable to radiological impact than members of the majority population.
- Findings of any epidemiological studies performed on the tribal group.

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T. Gann

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Any information or contacts that you can provide will be greatly appreciated. Should you have any questions, please contact Mr. Scott Flanders at (301) 415-1172.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY /s/

Mark S. Delligatti, Senior Project Manager
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and Safeguards

Docket 72-22

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