

June 27, 2001

Dr. Mary T. Kelly, Associate Director for Natural Resources  
League of Women Voters of South Carolina  
P.O. Box 8456  
Columbia, SC 29202

SUBJECT: SCOPING COMMENTS FOR THE MIXED OXIDE FUEL FABRICATION  
FACILITY ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Dear Dr. Kelly:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff received your letter, dated May 15, 2001, that provided scoping comments for the environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed Mixed Oxide (MOX) Fuel Fabrication Facility (FFF). In addition to your detailed comments on the scope of the EIS, you reiterated your request to have public meetings on the MOX project in Columbia, SC. Several commentors during the scoping process requested informational meetings prior to issuance of the draft EIS. We plan to hold additional public meetings after the draft EIS is published and are considering holding additional informational meetings. We will consider holding informational and public meetings in Columbia in the future.

You also question the impact of the MOX project on relicensing of the commercial reactors that would use the MOX fuel. Duke Power submitted an application to renew the operating licenses of the McGuire Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2, and Catawba Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2 on June 13, 2001. Duke Power summarized its plans for future potential usage of mixed oxide fuels (MOX) at these plants in the cover letter transmitting the applications. Duke Power plans to submit an amendment request, later this year, to irradiate a limited number of lead test assemblies, and plans to submit an amendment request in late 2003 or early 2004, to use MOX fuel in batch quantities. Duke Power also stated that any potential MOX fuel-related changes to the current licensing basis will be addressed in the associated MOX fuel-related licensing submittals, not in the Application to Renew the Operating Licenses of McGuire and Catawba stations. The NRC staff will consider MOX-related amendment requests on their own merits after we have received them. It should be noted that the Department of Energy did address the impacts of using MOX fuel in nuclear power plants in its Final EIS on Surplus Plutonium Disposition, dated November 1999.

Dr. Kelly

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Thank you for providing written comments, and attending and speaking at the May 8, 2001 scoping meeting. We will consider the scoping comments you have submitted. If you have any further questions, please contact Charlotte Abrams of my staff, at (301) 415-7293.

Sincerely,

**/RA/ BY JOSEPHINE PICCONE**

John T. Greeves, Director  
Division of Waste Management  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

Docket No.: 70-3098

Dr. Kelly

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Sincerely,

**/RA/ JOSEPHINE PICCONE**

John T. Greeves, Director  
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Docket No.: 70-3098

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