

From: <Judytighe@aol.com>
To: <teh@nrc.gov>
Date: 8/30/02 3:14PM
Subject: Attn: Tim Harris

4/24/02
67FR20189

Environmentalists, Inc.
FOUNDED 1972
Ruth Thomas, President

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Rules and Directives
Branch
USNRC

August 30, 2002
Mr. Mike Lesar
Mr. Tim Harris
Rules and Directives Branch
Division of Administration
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. Lesar and Mr. Harris,

Environmentalists, Inc (E I.) did not hear until August 27, 2002 about the NRC's Federal Register notice inviting comment on the agency's plan for preparing a draft and final Impact Statement related to the changes in the DOE's and DCS's (Duke, COGEMA, Stone and Webster) program concerning Surplus Plutonium Disposition. We request that the deadline of August 30 be extended to at least October 30, 2002. There is a need for this additional time to be granted, a number of other organizations have experienced the same problem of not learning about this opportunity for participation in the process until a few days ago. Included in these groups are people with the demonstrated knowledge and experience to provide the input requested by the NRC.

Since we first reviewed the DOE's proposal for surplus plutonium disposition, we have observed a lack of adequate attention being given to the unique and undisputed characteristics of plutonium in that plutonium requires an "approach to zero release or absolute containment."1 We are reviewing evidence in preparation for submitting additional comments

It is E.I.'s position that choices related to weapons plutonium need to be based on as complete and accurate record of evidence as possible. This goal applies to the preparation of the draft and final EIS now being undertaken by the NRC concerning the changes the DOE and DCS are planning with regard to the care of weapons grade plutonium. We believe that this is in keeping with the National Environmental Policy Act

In closing, we request that the NRC review its methods of communication with people, organizations, and independent researchers who have indicated their desire to access the decision-making processes related to nuclear concerns. We have been actively involved in this process for 30 years and still find it difficult. Please send us your publication which offers advice to citizens and organizations on effective interaction with the NRC, and please include us on all e-mail and mailing lists.

Sincerely,
Ruth Thomas

Template = ADM-013

E-RIDS = ADM-03
Cde = T. Harris (Teh)

1339 Sinkler Road
Columbia, SC 29206

1-NRC Docket No. 50-332, transcript page 4321.

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