

February 20, 2003

Ms. Sarah Barczak
Safe Energy Director
Southern Alliance for Clean Energy
3025 Bull Street, Suite 101
Savannah, GA 31405

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL PUBLIC MEETINGS FOR THE
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE PROPOSED
MIXED OXIDE FUEL FABRICATION FACILITY

Dear Ms. Barczak:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff received your letter dated January 15, 2003, regarding a request for additional public meetings for the proposed Mixed Oxide Fuel (MOX) Fabrication Facility. Your letter consisted of three requests: (1) for Savannah, GA, to continue to host the upcoming MOX meetings (2) to have public meetings at other cities throughout our nation such as Atlanta, GA, and Columbia, SC, and (3) to have your letter be made part of the official public scoping record.

In it's continuing public outreach, the NRC will be holding public meetings to discuss the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed MOX facility. The NRC's current schedule is to have meetings in the areas where previous meetings on the EIS have been held. The meetings would be in Savannah, GA, on March 25, North Augusta, SC, on March 26; and Charlotte, NC, on March 27, 2003. Therefore, Savannah, GA, will host an upcoming meeting as you requested.

The meeting locations in North Augusta, SC, and Savannah, GA, were chosen to allow public input from individuals living near the proposed MOX facility, or downstream of that facility. In an attempt to get broader public input, we believed that an additional public meeting in Charlotte was the most appropriate location. A Federal Register Notice announcing the public meetings will be issued shortly. We believe that by holding public meetings in these three areas, we obtain sufficiently broad public input from people who would be most affected if the proposed MOX facility is constructed and operated. Therefore, no meetings are planned for Columbia, SC, or Atlanta, GA. The NRC staff will make an effort to increase awareness of public meetings to citizens living within the vicinities of Columbia, SC, and Atlanta, GA, by publicizing the meetings in those cities. Those persons that cannot attend a meeting can provide written comments.

S. Barczak

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Your letter will be made a part of the NRC documentation and made publically available through ADAMS, NRC's agency-wide electronic record keeping system.

I hope that this information addresses your immediate concerns. If you have any further questions, please contact Tim Harris, Project Manager, at (301) 415-6613.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Lawrence Kokajko, Acting Branch Chief
Environmental Performance and Assessment Branch
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

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DOCUMENT NAME: G:\DWM\EPAB\TEH\Response letter MOX.wpd

Log No.: 03-019

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