

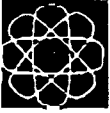


Snake River Alliance

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Draft Policy Statement

68FR62642

November 18, 2003

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Public Affairs (OPA)
Washington, D.C. 20555

DOCKETED
USNRC

November 18, 2003 (3:53PM)

OFFICE OF SECRETARY
RULEMAKINGS AND
ADJUDICATIONS STAFF

Re: Request Public Comment Period Extension and Public Hearings on Changes to the Environmental Justice Policy.

Dear Commissioners:

The Snake River Alliance is an Idaho based grassroots group working through research, education and advocacy for peace and justice, the end of nuclear weapons production activities and responsible solutions to nuclear waste and contamination. We monitor activities at the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory in eastern Idaho and advocate for the clean up of the nuclear waste buried there threatening Idaho's water.

I write on behalf of our more than 1,300 dues paying members to request an extension of the public comment period for the Environmental Justice policy changes proposed by your agency to July 4, 2004. Furthermore, we request the Nuclear Regulator Commission hold at least ten (10) public hearings on this topic.

For decades, poor communities and communities of color have been subjected to governmental and corporate malfeasance. Nuclear power and nuclear waste sites have been systematically located near or in these communities to the detriment of the people living there. We believe that weakening our current Environmental Justice policies to serve the needs of the private sector in their quest for new nuclear power plant developments is wrong, is racist, and should not be tolerated by our government. The public should have full opportunity to comment on these proposed changes.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Jeremy M. Maxand
Executive Director