

August 25, 2005

DOCKETED
USNRC

Nils Diaz, Chairman
Gregory Jaczko, Peter Lyons, Edward McGaffigan, Jeffrey Merrifield,
Commissioners
c/o Acting Secretary of the Commission Andrew L. Bates
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

August 30, 2005 (3:50pm)

OFFICE OF SECRETARY
RULEMAKINGS AND
ADJUDICATIONS STAFF

Docket No. 72-22-ISFSI

Dear Commissioners,

We urge you not to approve the lease for the Private Fuel Storage, LLC (PFS) high-level radioactive waste dump targeted at the Skull Valley Goshute Indian Reservation in Utah.

Transporting 44,000 tons of deadly nuclear waste, beginning as early as 2007, over our railways through dozens of states presents the potential for a disaster of astonishing proportions. A crash or terrorist attack involving even one of these shipments through any one of our communities could be catastrophic, yet Private Fuel Storage utterly lacks a detailed plan for ensuring the safety of these shipments.

Problems at the site are equally troubling. The adjacent Hill Air Force Base and Utah Test and Training Range (UTTR) represents one of the biggest and busiest bombing ranges in the country, with 7,000 jet fighter over-flights annually carrying live ordnance posing the risk of accidental, explosive crashes into PFS. The stray missile which struck the scientific research station on the reservation in the 1990s, and the Genesis satellite crash into the UTTR last September, for instance, demonstrates the potential danger of storing nearly 80% of the country's currently existing commercial high-level radioactive waste next to such active military facilities. A large-scale radioactivity release from PFS would not only endanger the Skull Valley Goshute community and nearby residents of Tooele County, but also the Salt Lake City metropolitan area just 50 miles downwind.

We are deeply concerned about the environmental justice implications of PFS, which is likely to impose a disproportionate toxic burden on the Skull Valley Goshute people. On its face, the storage of highly radioactive waste on a tiny, poverty-stricken Native American community, (already surrounded by numerous toxic facilities), that did not even benefit from the nuclear generated electricity is a case study in environmental racism. The long-standing, ongoing dispute within the tribe over leadership and the crisis of governance on the reservation only exacerbates such concerns.

This proposal to dump high-level radioactive waste on the Skull Valley Goshute Reservation in Utah is widely opposed by nearly 300 national, regional, state and

local Native American, environmental, and public interest groups. We add our voices to theirs in urging you once again not to approve the PFS license.

Thank you for consideration of these issues which affect the health and well-being of us all.

Sincerely,

Paula Ash
Edward Asner
Bonnie Bartlett
Jackson Browne
Peter Buck
Julie Burton
Susan Clark
James Cromwell
William Daniels
Ani DiFranco
Beth Grossbard
Claire L. Heron
Robert Heron
James Lake
Laura Lake
Joan MacIntosh
Mike Mills
Graham Nash
Sarah Nichols
Bonnie Raitt
Amy Ray
Lynette Berg Robe
Mike Robe
Arundhati Roy
Emily Saliers
Buffy Sainte-Marie
Susan Sarandon
Michael Stipe
Rita Williams
Ted Williams
Gretchen Wyler
Jesse Colin Young