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Chief, Rules Review and Directives Branch  
Mailstop: T6-D59  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Dear Sir or Madam:

Please accept this document as my formal comments and questions regarding NUREG-1888. I also formally request the comment period be extended due to new questions and concerns by the public and government agencies pertaining to the same.

Sincerely,



Ed Henshaw

XC: distribution list enclosed

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SUNSC Review Complete  
Template = ADM-013

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Gld = A. Fetter (AHF)

WRITTEN STATEMENT PERTAINING TO NUREG-1888  
SUBMITTED BY ED HENSHAW  
TO THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
DOCKET NO. 40-8027

The draft of NUREG-1888 is fraught with inconsistencies and omissions. It is obviously written to protect the monetary interests of Sequoyah Fuels and not the intended purpose of an environmental impact statement; which is to protect the environment and public health. This document allows burial of radio nuclides, toxic wastes, carcinogens, and imported wastes on the banks of the Arkansas and Illinois Rivers and adjacent to the largest freshwater aquifer in the State of Oklahoma. It also ignores the fact that wastes from this site have already migrated into those waters. It states: "The sandstone units, while fractured, are highly cemented and thus do not freely conduct water". Conversely the illegal use of the deep injection well proved that the different geological units are inter-connected and provide a conduit for mixing of ground waters from different geological strata. That is exactly why the Atomic Energy Commission denied its use and yet the consequences of that operation were ignored in this study and in the site characterization. The property has fault lines traversing it with attendant risks. Another obvious omission is the failure to address the artesian water sources that originate in lower geological formations and surface on site and are evidenced by briny solutions.

This environmental impact statement is not based on good science but instead political chicanery intended to foist on the taxpayer the burden of cleanup of this site at some future date. The wastes at this site were intentionally misclassified and should never be placed in a region where there is the remotest possibility of contaminating potential drinking water sources. The wastes here are not mill tailings but instead refined and concentrated amounts of radio nuclides and numerous heavy metals. The authors of this document suggest that the groundwater near this site will never be used because of the close proximity of the river. An assumption such as that is reckless and irresponsible. The authors also anticipate transfer of ownership of this low level radioactive waste dump to the State of Oklahoma or the United States government. I posit this question to these guardians of the public health: why are Sequoyah Fuels, General Atomics, and Kerr McGee Corporation not paying to properly dispose of this material? It should be placed in a dry climate, totally segregated from any potential drinking water sources. Neal and Linden Blue should turn loose of some of the profits that were made here; to properly dispose of these wastes. The taxpayers should not have to relinquish hard earned money to support the lifestyle of the rich and famous.

At present not one of the environmental impact statements produced by the AEC or NRC that relates to the license of this facility is worth the paper it is written on. Not one of them has been substantiated in practice nor has one proven to be valid. Extreme environmental contamination has resulted after each and every assurance that 'no adverse environmental impacts are anticipated' due to the respective license amendment. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has no credibility left. In the approximately 25 year operational life span of this facility, every waste impoundment that I know of at this site, and approved by the NRC, has failed and spewed toxic or radioactive waste into the groundwater and surface waters adjacent to this facility. Some went un-addressed for more than a decade while the NRC and other dilatory regulatory agencies sat idly by. The clay soil in this area has a tendency to crack during dry weather and is the main reason that the waste impoundments; that have been used here, have allowed intrusion of surface waters and resulted in leached wastes into the underground formations. Please tell me once again, with a straight face; how you intend to isolate these hazardous wastes

from the ground and surface waters for the billions of years of their half-life ( $\text{Ra}^{226}=1600\text{years}$ ,  $\text{Th}^{230}=75,400\text{ years}$ , and  $\text{U}^{238}=4.46\text{ billion years}$ ). The NRC has become no more than a lap dog for the nuclear industry they were chartered to regulate.


The thing I find most infuriating about this bad joke you call an environmental impact statement; is your approval to bury 198.6 curies of radio nuclides that are packaged and ready for shipment to a proper disposal site in spite of an agreement with the State of Oklahoma to ship them there. Those packaged wastes represent 34% of the Uranium, 76% of the Thorium-230, and 38% of the Radium-226 in the wastes here. But, since it would cost the company 3 or 4 million dollars to dispose of them properly, the NRC said it would be appropriate to bury them here. That is a significant amount of the radio nuclides on site and would reduce the risk of further contamination of the groundwater if disposed of responsibly. Total reclamation is already impossible due to the negligence of the companies that operated it and the regulatory agencies that were charged with the responsibility to prevent the widespread contamination that occurred here. Please don't compound your failures by allowing the burial of future contamination. Now is the time to stop this madness. It should not go unnoticed that this wanton disregard of public health is once again transpiring in a low income community with a high minority population.

I personally think the NRC cannot legally dispose of low level radioactive waste in Oklahoma since it is a member of the Central States Low Level Waste Compact and was not designated as the repository state for such wastes.

Fresh water in the near future may very well be one of our most valued and scarce natural resources. To again take a cavalier approach to burial of radioactive and hazardous wastes in an area abundant with such a precious resource; should be considered criminal and bureaucrats that advocate it should be criminally prosecuted. At sites such as this, a bronze plaque should be erected, and the names of the culprits responsible inscribed permanently for future generations to know who perpetrated such a ruse.

I wish this statement to be entered into the official record of the proceedings pertaining to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement NUREG-1888 and a formal response to my questions pertaining to the consequences of onsite burial.

Submitted by Ed Henshaw



October 24, 2007

Questions: How much will it cost to remediate the largest freshwater aquifer in the State of Oklahoma, not if, but when it becomes contaminated with the leachates from this burial site and who will bear the burden of that expense?

XC: attached list

U.S. Senator James M. Inhofe  
172 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Daniel Boren  
U.S. House of Representatives  
236 Cannon HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Frank Lucas  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2342 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mary Fallin  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1432 Longworth HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515-3605

The Honorable Ed Markey  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2108 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Senator Richard Lerblance  
2300 N. Lincoln Boulevard  
Room 425  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Senator Earl Garrison  
2300 N. Lincoln Boulevard  
Room 527B  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Representative Glen Bud Smithson  
2300 N. Lincoln Boulevard  
Room 508  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Principal Chief Chadwick Smith  
Cherokee Nation  
P.O. Box 948  
Tahlequah, OK 74465

Hazard Waste Enforcement Branch  
U.S. EPA – Region 6  
1445 Ross Avenue  
Dallas, TX 75202-2733

U.S. Senator Tom A. Coburn  
172 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Sullivan  
U.S. House of Representatives  
114 Cannon HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole  
U.S. House of Representatives  
236 Cannon HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John D. Dingell  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2328 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Henry Waxman  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2204 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Senator Jim Wilson  
2300 N. Lincoln Boulevard  
Room 426  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Representative Ed Cannaday  
2300 N. Lincoln Boulevard  
Room 322  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Drew Edmondson  
Oklahoma Attorney General  
112 State Capitol Building  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Mr. Stephen A. Thompson  
Executive Director- ODEQ  
P.O. Box 1677  
Oklahoma City, OK 73101

Governor Brad Henry  
2300 N. Lincoln Boulevard  
Room 212  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105