



Department of Energy  
National Nuclear Security Administration  
Washington, DC 20585



June 17, 2008

Ms. Barbara O'Neal  
Ms. Chris Tipton  
Erwin Citizens Awareness Network  
P.O. Box 1151  
Erwin, TN 37650


Dear Ms. O'Neal and Ms. Tipton:

Thank you for your letter dated May 16, 2008, regarding the Surplus Highly Enriched Uranium (HEU) Disposition Supplement Analysis, in which you requested that the Department of Energy (DOE) prepare an environmental impact statement for HEU disposition activities, and that DOE sponsor a comprehensive health assessment for your area.

The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 requires DOE to analyze the environmental impacts of major federal actions. Accordingly, we completed a comprehensive HEU Disposition Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in June 1996, and updated it with a June 2007, Supplement Analysis. As our program representative explained at the April 2, 2008, public meeting in Erwin, the conclusion of the Supplement Analysis was that the changes in the program and the analysis of its environmental impacts since 1996 were not significant, and therefore, DOE is not required to prepare a supplemental EIS. Both the original EIS and the 2007 Supplement Analysis concluded that no significant environmental or health impacts have resulted, or would result, from the Department's surplus HEU disposition activities, including those conducted at Nuclear Fuel Services (NFS). We continue to believe those conclusions are justified. Moreover, DOE does not have the authority to conduct or sponsor health assessments for private facilities.

Thank you for your interest in the HEU Disposition Program. The Department is committed to ensure this program is conducted in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act.

Sincerely,

  
for

William H. Tobey  
Deputy Administrator for  
Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation

