

February 6, 2009

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
BEFORE THE SECRETARY**

Waste Confidence Decision Update)
10 C.F.R. Part 51)
73 Fed. Reg. 59,551 (Oct. 9, 2008))

Docket ID – 2008-0482

Proposed Rule: Consideration of)
Environmental Impacts of Temporary)
Storage of Spent Fuel After Cessation)
Of Reactor Operation)
10 C.F.R. Part 51)
73 Fed. Reg. 59,547 (Oct. 9, 2008))

RIN: 3150-A147
Docket ID – 2008-0404

**DECLARATION BY DR. ARJUN MAKHIJANI IN SUPPORT OF COMMENTS
OF THE INSTITUTE FOR ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH
ON THE U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION'S PROPOSED
WASTE CONFIDENCE DECISION UPDATE**

Under penalty of perjury, I, Dr. Arjun Makhijani, declare as follows:

1. I am President of the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research. IEER has been doing nuclear-related studies for over twenty years and is an independent non-profit organization located in Takoma Park, Maryland. Under my direction, IEER produces technical studies on a wide range of energy and environmental issues to provide advocacy groups and policymakers with sound scientific information and analyses as applied to environmental and health protection and for the purpose of promoting the understanding and the democratization of science.
2. I have a Ph.D. (Engineering), granted by the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences of the University of California, Berkeley, where I specialized in the application of plasma physics to controlled nuclear fusion. I also have a master's degree in electrical engineering from Washington State University, and a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from the University of Bombay. I am qualified by training and experience as an expert in the fields of plasma physics, electrical engineering, nuclear engineering, and energy-related technology and policy issues. I have extensive

professional experience and am qualified as an expert in radioactive waste disposal, standards for protection of human health from radiation, and the relative costs and benefits of nuclear energy and other energy sources. I have served as an expert witness in numerous lawsuits and testified on a variety of issues including releases of radioactivity from nuclear facilities. A copy of my curriculum vita (CV) is attached.

3. Over more than 25 years, I have developed extensive experience with nuclear fuel cycle-related issues, including standards and strategies for radioactive waste storage and disposal, accountability with respect to measurement of radioactive effluents from nuclear facilities, health and environmental effects of nuclear testing and nuclear facility operation, strategies for disposition of fissile materials, energy efficiency, and other energy-related issues. As reflected in my curriculum vita (see Attachment) I have authored or co-authored many publications on these subjects. I have testified before Congress on several occasions regarding issues related to nuclear waste, reprocessing, environmental releases of radioactivity, and regulation of nuclear weapons plants.

4. An extensive part of my work has been to analyze various issues related to radioactive waste management, classification, and disposal. This includes studies on low-level waste, high-level waste, spent fuel disposal, geologic repositories, and research related to geologic repositories. I have studied radioactive waste in both the commercial and military sectors. I was the director of a team that analyzed ANDRA's research plans for a geological repository for high level radioactive waste in France on behalf of a French government-sponsored stakeholder committee (2004). I am the principal author of a book on nuclear waste, *High-Level Dollars Low-Level Sense: A Critique of Present Policy for the Management of Long-Lived Radioactive Waste and Discussion of An Alternative Approach*, Apex Press, 1992. This included an analysis of U.S. waste classification regulations. I am the principal author of an assessment of the radioactive waste management and disposal costs of depleted uranium from the National Enrichment Facility (2004 and 2005).

5. Between 1997 and 2002, I was on the expert team monitoring independent audits of the compliance of Los Alamos National Laboratory with the radiation release portion of the Clean Air Act (40 CFR 61 Subpart H), conducted under a Consent Decree, which was the result of a federal court finding that Los Alamos was out of compliance with Subpart H. In that capacity I have reviewed extensive records, models, facilities, procedures, measurements, and other aspects of the Los Alamos National Laboratory air emissions control and measurement program in order to determine whether the audits were being properly conducted and whether they were thoroughly done. I have also served as a member of the Radiation Advisory Committee of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Science Advisory Board from 1992 to 1994 and on the EPA's Advisory Subcommittee on cleanup standards, which was part of the National Advisory Committee on Environmental Policy and Technology. In addition, I have served as a consultant to numerous organizations, as mentioned in my CV.

5. I have written a number of books and other publications analyzing the safety, economics, and efficiency of various energy sources, including nuclear power and sustainable energy sources such as wind and solar energy. I was the principal author of the first evaluation of energy end-uses and energy efficiency potential in the U.S. economy (published by the Electronics Research Laboratory, University of California at Berkeley in 1971). I was also the principal author of the first overview study on *Energy and Agriculture in the Third World* (Ballinger 1975). This study included consideration of both traditional and modern energy sources. I was one of the principal technical staff persons of the Ford Foundation Energy Policy Project, and a co-author of its final report, *A Time to Choose*, which helped shape U.S. energy policy during the mid-to-late 1970s. I am a co-author of *Investment Planning in the Energy Sector*, which is an economic model published by the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory in 1975. I am also the author of *Nuclear Power Deception* (Apex Books 1999), an analysis of nuclear power policy, safety and the promises of energy “too cheap to meter” in the United States. On behalf of the SEED Coalition, I have assessed the capital costs of proposed nuclear power reactors in South Texas (2008). In addition, I am the author of *Carbon-Free and Nuclear-Free* (RDR Books and IEER Press 2007, reprinted in 2008), which is, to the best of my knowledge, the first detailed analysis of a transition to a U.S. economy based completely on renewable energy, without any use of fossil fuels or nuclear power. I have been a consultant on energy issues to several U.N. agencies, the Tennessee Valley Authority, the Lower Colorado River Authority, the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory, Edison Electric Institute, and the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment. I was elected a Fellow of the American Physical Society in 2007, an honor granted to at most one-half of one percent of APS members.

6. I have also done extensive work with respect to the health and environmental effects of nuclear weapons production. I am the principal author of the first independent assessment of radioactivity emissions from a nuclear weapons plant (1989) and co-author of the first audit of the cost of the U.S. nuclear weapons program (*Atomic Audit*, 1998). I am also the principal editor and a co-author of the first global assessment of the health and environmental effects of nuclear weapons production (*Nuclear Wastelands*, 1995 and 2000), which was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize by MIT Press.

7. I have reviewed the NRC’s Waste Confidence Decision Update (73 Fed. Reg. 59,551 (Oct. 9, 2009)). I am also familiar with the relevant underlying documents and with the general history of the development of the Waste Confidence Decision. In addition, I am familiar with the NRC’s uranium fuel cycle rule and relevant associated reference documents. And I am familiar with relevant aspects of governing law and guidance, including the National Environmental Policy Act and relevant NRC implementing regulations.

8. I am responsible for the content of the Comments of the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research on the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission’s Proposed Waste Confidence Decision Update and Proposed Rule Regarding Environmental Impacts of

Temporary Spent Fuel Storage, dated February 6, 2009. The facts presented in those comments are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, and the opinions expressed therein are based on my best professional judgment.



Dr. Arjun Makhijani

February 6, 2009

Attachment

Curriculum Vita of Arjun Makhijani

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A recognized authority on energy issues, Dr. Makhijani is the author and co-author of numerous reports and books on energy and environment related issues. He was the principal author of the first study of the energy efficiency potential of the US economy published in 1971. He is the author of *Carbon-Free and Nuclear-Free: A Roadmap for U.S. Energy Policy* (2007).

In 1989 he received The John Bartlow Martin Award for Public Interest Magazine Journalism of the Medill School of Journalism, Northwestern University, with Robert Alvarez; was awarded the Josephine Butler Nuclear Free Future Award in 2001 and the Jane Bagley Lehman Award of the Tides Foundation in 2008; and was named a Ploughshares Hero, by the Ploughshares Fund (2006). In 2007, he was named a Fellow of the American Physical Society. He has many published articles in journals such as *The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* and *The Progressive*, as well as in newspapers, including the *Washington Post*.

Dr. Makhijani has testified before Congress, and has appeared on ABC World News Tonight, the CBS Evening News, CBS 60 Minutes, NPR, CNN, and BBC, among others. He has served as a consultant on energy issues to utilities, including the Tennessee Valley Authority, the Edison Electric Institute, the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory, and several agencies of the United Nations.

Education:

- Ph.D. University of California, Berkeley, 1972, from the Department of Electrical Engineering. Area of specialization: plasma physics as applied to controlled nuclear fusion. Dissertation topic: multiple mirror confinement of plasmas. Minor fields of doctoral study: statistics and physics.
- M.S. (Electrical Engineering) Washington State University, Pullman, Washington, 1967. Thesis topic: electromagnetic wave propagation in the ionosphere.
- Bachelor of Engineering (Electrical), University of Bombay, Bombay, India, 1965.

Current Employment:

- 1987-present: President and Senior Engineer, Institute for Energy and Environmental Research, Takoma Park, Maryland. (part-time in 1987).
- February 3, 2004-present, Associate, SC&A, Inc., one of the principal investigators in the audit of the reconstruction of worker radiation doses under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act under contract to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Other Long-term Employment

- 1984-88: Associate Professor, Capitol College, Laurel, Maryland (part-time in 1988).
- 1983-84: Assistant Professor, Capitol College, Laurel, Maryland.
- 1977-79: Visiting Professor, National Institute of Bank Management, Bombay, India. Principal responsibility: evaluation of the Institute's extensive pilot rural development program.
- 1975-87: Independent consultant (see page 2 for details)
- 1972-74: Project Specialist, Ford Foundation Energy Policy Project. Responsibilities included research and writing on the technical and economic aspects of energy conservation and supply in the U.S.; analysis of Third World rural energy problems; preparation of requests for proposals; evaluation of proposals; and the management of grants made by the Project to other institutions.
- 1969-70: Assistant Electrical Engineer, Kaiser Engineers, Oakland California. Responsibilities included the design and checking of the electrical aspects of mineral industries such as cement plants, and plants for processing mineral ores such as lead and uranium ores. Pioneered the use of the desk-top computer at Kaiser Engineers for performing electrical design calculations.

Professional Societies:

- Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers and its Power Engineering Society
- American Physical Society (Fellow)
- Health Physics Society
- American Association for the Advancement of Science

Awards and Honors:

- The John Bartlow Martin Award for Public Interest Magazine Journalism of the Medill School of Journalism, Northwestern University, 1989, with Robert Alvarez
- The Josephine Butler Nuclear Free Future Award, 2001
- Ploughshares Hero, Ploughshares Fund, 2006
- Elected a Fellow of the American Physical Society, 2007, "*For his tireless efforts to provide the public with accurate and understandable information on energy and environmental issues*"
- Jane Bagley Lehman Award of the Tides Foundation, 2007/2008

Invited Faculty Member, Center for Health and the Global Environment, Harvard Medical School: Annual Congressional Course, *Environmental Change: The Science and Human Health Impacts*, April 18-19, 2006, Lecture Topic: An Update on Nuclear Power - Is it Safe?

Consulting Experience, 1975-1987

Consultant on a wide variety of issues relating to technical and economic analyses of alternative energy sources; electric utility rates and investment planning; energy conservation; analysis of energy use in agriculture; US energy policy; energy policy for the Third World; evaluations of portions of the nuclear fuel cycle.

Partial list of institutions to which I was a consultant in the 1975-87 period:

- Tennessee Valley Authority
- Lower Colorado River Authority
- Federation of Rocky Mountain States
- Environmental Policy Institute
- Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
- International Labour Office of the United Nations
- United Nations Environment Programme
- United Nations Center on Transnational Corporations
- The Ford Foundation
- Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
- United Nations Development Programme

Languages: English, French, Hindi, Sindhi, and Marathi.

Reports, Books, and Articles (Partial list)

(Newsletter, newspaper articles, excerpts from publications reprinted in books and magazines or adapted therein, and other similar publications are not listed below)

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A Time to Choose: America's Energy Future, final report of the Ford Foundation Energy Policy Project, Ballinger, Cambridge, 1974. One of many co-authors.

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Makhijani, A., *Experimental Irradiation of Air Force Personnel During Operation Redwing - 1956*, Environmental Policy Institute, Washington, D.C., 1985.

Makhijani, A., and R.S. Browne, "Restructuring the International Monetary System," *World Policy Journal*, New York, Winter, 1985-86.

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Special Commission of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War and the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research, *Radioactive Heaven and Earth: The Health and Environmental Effects of Nuclear Weapons Testing In, On, and Above the Earth*, Apex Press, New York, 1991. One of many co-authors.

Makhijani, A., and S. Saleska, *High Level Dollars Low-Level Sense: A Critique of Present Policy for the Management of Long-Lived Radioactive Waste and Discussion of an Alternative Approach*, Apex Press, New York, 1992.

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Makhijani, A., and Michele Boyd, *Nuclear Dumps by the Riverside: Threats to the Savannah River from Radioactive Contamination at the Savannah River Site*, Institute for Energy and Environmental Research, Takoma Park, Maryland, March 2004.

Makhijani, A., and Brice Smith, *The Role of E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Company (Du Pont) and the General Electric Company in Plutonium Production and the Associated I-131 Emissions from the Hanford Works*, Institute for Energy and Environmental Research, Takoma Park, Maryland, March 30, 2004.

Makhijani, A., Peter Bickel, Aiyou Chen, and Brice Smith, *Cash Crop on the Wind Farm: A New Mexico Case Study of the Cost, Price, and Value of Wind-Generated Electricity*, Institute for Energy and Environmental Research, Takoma Park, Maryland, April 2004.

Makhijani, A., Lois Chalmers, and Brice Smith, *Uranium Enrichment: Just Plain Facts to Fuel an Informed Debate on Nuclear Proliferation and Nuclear Power*, Institute for Energy and Environmental Research, Takoma Park, Maryland, October 15, 2004.

Makhijani, A., and Brice Smith, *Costs and Risks of Management and Disposal of Depleted Uranium from the National Enrichment Facility Proposed to be Built in Lea County New Mexico by LES*, Institute for Energy and Environmental Research, Takoma Park, Maryland, November 24, 2004.

Makhijani, A., project director, *Examen critique du programme de recherche de l'ANDRA pour déterminer l'aptitude du site de Bure au confinement géologique des déchets à haute activité et à vie longue: Rapport final*, prepared for le Comité ocal d'Information et de Suivi; coordinator: Annie Makhijani; authors: Detlef Appel, Jaak Daemen, George Danko, Yuri Dublyansky, Rod Ewing, Gerhard Jentsch, Horst Letz, Arjun Makhijani, Institute for Energy and Environmental Research, Takoma Park, Maryland, December 2004

Institute for Energy and Environmental Research, *Lower Bound for Cesium-137 Releases from the Sodium Burn Pit at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory*, IEER, Takoma Park, Maryland, January 13, 2005. (Authored by A. Makhijani and Brice Smith.)

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Makhijani, A., and Brice Smith, *Dangerous Discrepancies: Missing Weapons Plutonium in Los Alamos National Laboratory Waste Accounts*, Institute for Energy and Environmental Research, Takoma Park, Maryland, April 21, 2006.

Makhijani, Annie, and A. Makhijani, *Low-Carbon Diet without Nukes in France: An Energy Technology and Policy Case Study on Simultaneous Reduction of Climate Change and Proliferation Risks*, Institute for Energy and Environmental Research, Takoma Park, Maryland, May 4, 2006.

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