

## EagleRockCEM Resource

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**From:** obid@juno.com  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 23, 2009 3:36 PM  
**To:** EagleRockEIS Resource  
**Subject:** Docket No. 70-7015

I am commenting regarding the Areva plant Idaho Falls environmental impact statement. I would like you to address the following issues in the EIS.

What will happen to the waste? Most of the waste from an enrichment plant is depleted uranium (DU) hexafluoride, a particularly difficult-to-manage nuclear waste. The hexafluoride has to be removed before the DU can be disposed of, and the US doesn't have any facilities to do that, so we already have more than half a million metric tons of DU sitting on outdoor concrete pads. Even after it's treated, the waste will be hard to dispose of because DU becomes more radioactive over time, and it will be most dangerous one million years from now. Areva's plant will produce 15,270 metric tons of it every year and part of the plant design includes an outdoor pad big enough to hold every ton the plant will ever produce. I do not want this in my areas and it sounds extremely dangerous to me.

What is Areva's past record in other places it has operated? Areva runs the reprocessing plant at La Hague in France. That single facility pours one million gallons of radioactive liquid into the English Channel each year and has contaminated the seas all the way to the Arctic Circle. Areva has mined uranium in Niger for the past 40 years, and activists there accuse it of destroying the lives and livelihoods of indigenous people and of depleting groundwater. I think this track record should be taken into account.

What about the fact that uranium enrichment can lead to nuclear bombmaking?  
The only difference between the uranium in nuclear reactor fuel and the uranium in nuclear bombs is the degree of enrichment. That's why the US and other countries don't think Iran should enrich uranium. I don't think we should do it either. The link between enrichment and bombmaking should be addressed.

What happens if Areva goes out of business?  
Areva can only survive financially as long as the French government props it up. The risks of nuclear waste, contamination, and proliferation that are the inevitable consequences of uranium enrichment will be ours to bear and Areva may not be around to pay anything. Whether these long term risks are worth the cost should be addressed.

Thank you.  
Sincerely,  
Kathy O'Brien  
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