

EagleRockCEm Resource

From: Benj Sinclair [benjamatic@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2009 11:30 AM
To: EagleRockEIS Resource
Cc: jeanj@bresnan.net; info@snakeriveralliance.org
Subject: Docket No. 70-7015 comments

RE: Docket No. 70-7015

June 16, 2009

To whom it may concern,

I have lived in Jackson, Wyoming for 18 years. Jackson is downwind of Idaho Falls and the INL.

I am very concerned about public participation regarding Areva NP's plans for construction of the Eagle Rock Enrichment Facility near Idaho Falls.

The public needs to know how Areva plans to store the DU hexafluoride that will be produced in large quantities at this facility, and public comment should be a part of the upcoming EIS for this project.

Public input is essential in order to get this project buy-in, and thus it is imperative that a broad spectrum of Idahoans attend a public meeting on it. The only appropriate location for that forum is Boise.

Areva has a bad reputation in Europe, where the company's re-processing plant at La Hague has dumped countless millions of gallons of DU into the North Atlantic. I do not believe this corporation should be trusted to store or dispose of DU without very close scrutiny and constant oversight.

Furthermore, my understanding is that the enrichment of any uranium anywhere poses the threat of proliferation of bomb-grade fissile material. It increases the usable energy of the original uranium fuel by about 15 percent, but as you well know, the trade-off is that it also makes available quantities of pure plutonium--only 10 kilograms of which is required to make an atomic bomb. Thus, enrichment increases the risk that dangerous fissile material could end up in the hands of terrorists. (The French claim that a benefit of enrichment is that it reduces the overall volume of nuclear waste, but even so, the uranium separated from spent fuel needs to be stored, and burning mixed-oxide fuel made out of recycled plutonium still produces radioactive waste that must be dealt with).

The people of Idaho and their closest neighbors in Wyoming should have an opportunity to ask questions at a public meeting about every one of the safety and security measures that Areva plans to implement with this project.

Thank you for including my comments in the official record.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Sinclair
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Jackson, WY 83001

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