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Notice of Public Workshop on a Potential Rulemaking for Safe Disposal of Unique Waste Streams Including Significant Quantities of Depleted Uranium

Comment On: NRC-2009-0257-0001

Public Workshop: Potential Rulemaking for Safe Disposal of Unique Waste Streams Including Significant Quantities of Depleted Uranium

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Comment on FR Doc # E9-14820

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General Comment

- The NRC erred when it decided to formulate guidelines for depleted uranium disposal in a low-level waste disposal facility. That decision did not take into account the hundreds of thousands of years over which DU grows more radioactive.
- The NRC must, as part of this rulemaking, prepare an environmental impact statement that fully evaluates DU disposal in a deep geologic repository.
- It is inappropriate to license any new uranium enrichment facility until regulations are in place governing disposal of depleted uranium and disposal facilities have implemented those regulations.
- Until the NRC is able to provide a clear description of "other unique waste streams," it must not attempt to formulate rules governing their disposal. Instead, the NRC should focus on reevaluating its decision that shallow land burial is adequate for depleted uranium disposal.
- The U.S. already has a massive inventory of depleted uranium still mixed with hexafluoride, so it cannot be disposed of. Once that separation occurs, the size of the waste stream and the fact that DU grows more radioactive over the course of one million years prohibits DU disposal at any of the current or pending low-level waste disposal facilities.

SUNSI Review Complete

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