

EagleRockCEM Resource

From: EdgeG@aol.com
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To: EagleRockEIS Resource
Subject: NUREG 1945

Stop Areva's Uranium Factory

Areva's plant will do more harm than good to Idaho. Any jobs that would be gained wouldn't counter the damage, both fiscally and environmentally, that would be done to Idaho.

Please consider these facts:

- Current supplies of enriched uranium are more than adequate, and already operating or planned new enrichment capacity would exceed US demand by about the same amount as Areva's plant might produce, even if a nuclear renaissance occurs.
- The raw material for the plant would be imported, a portion of its product would be exported. French-owned Areva's plant will not increase US energy security by providing a "domestic" source of enriched uranium.
- Areva's plant should not be licensed until regulations are in place for disposal of large quantities of depleted uranium.
- Gas centrifuge uranium enrichment is a technology the Federation of American Scientists calls "an open road to a nuclear weapon." At the very least, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission must produce an unclassified proliferation assessment of Areva's plant.
- The NRC has demonstrated a clear bias toward licensing by granting Areva permission to begin "preconstruction" activities in October, long before any final decision has been made. The NRC must withdraw its permission to begin.
- Pronghorn antelope, greater sage grouse, and ferruginous hawks all will likely abandon the Areva site and surrounding areas due to development and human activity. Sage grouse is a candidate species for federal protection. The problem is compounded by construction of the electric transmission line and poles proposed to support the facility, which sage-grouse are known to avoid because they serve as perches for raptors.
- The NRC should address both Areva's failure to comply with the Federal Farmland Protection Act and its own failure to fully analyze the environmental effects of a large range fire at the Areva site.

Stan Kidwell

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