

November 14, 2003

**Draft Policy Statement
(68FR62642)**

DOCKETED
USNRC

December 4, 2003 (12:07PM)

Secretary

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Washington, DC 20555-0001

hearingsdocket@nrc.gov

Attn: Rulemakings and Adjudication Staff

OFFICE OF SECRETARY
RULEMAKINGS AND
ADJUDICATIONS STAFF

Re: Policy Statement on the Treatment of Environmental Justice Matters in NRC
Regulatory and Licensing Actions (Federal Register, November 5, 2003, V. 68, No. 214;
pp 62642-62645)

To The Secretary:

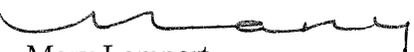
We request an extension of the public comment period for the Draft Policy Statement on the Treatment of Environmental Justice Matters in NRC Regulatory and Licensing Actions. The draft policy states the NRC's position on basic human rights issues - environmental justice. It is an important policy for nuclear siting issues and rests upon matters fundamental to our American way of life.

Also key to our way of life is adhering to the democratic process - governmental agencies doing all they can to encourage public participation. The NRC appears to have been negligent in this regard.

The NRC issued a press release on October 31 announcing the draft policy. However, it was not made available until November 5. Then, the NRC announced a comment period which falls largely during our country's main Holiday season. On top of these drawbacks, the comment period itself has not been dealt with properly. The NRC's website does not carry all notice and background materials. 9 days into the comment period, NRC's website states that there are no proposed policy statements up for public comment. Not only that, but the basic materials necessary to understand the issues involved (for example, President Clinton's Executive Order 12898; Dr. Ivan Selin's letter to President Clinton of March 31, 1994; etc.) are nowhere to be found on the NRC's website, or even on the NRC's Adams program. It is clear if public participation remains a goal that all relevant documentation should be packaged together and placed along with the draft policy statement. This should have been done before the statement was released for public comment and certainly upon release of the Draft.

We request that: (1) NRC holds at minimum ten public meetings in all parts of the United States, possible locations are - Chicago; Port Gibson, Mississippi; Homer, Louisiana; Albuquerque, New Mexico; Charlottesville, Virginia; Las Vegas, Nevada; San Francisco, California; New York, NY; Atlanta and Washington, DC. The meetings need to be widely advertised in those communities. At the meetings NRC officials should explain the draft policy, and allow ample time for oral public comment. (2) The public comment period should be extended approximately 180 days, or until July 4, 2004.

Sincerely, on behalf of *Pilgrim Security Watch*


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