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From: RulemakingComments Resource
Sent: Monday, December 23, 2013 7:38 AM
To: Rulemaking1CEm Resource
Subject: FW: Docket ID NRC-2012-0246-Filed Oral Comments of Tonja Wicks, President and CEO, TLW Legal and Government Support Services
Attachments: 11-18-13a Filed Comments of Tonja Wicks - Nov 18th NRC Waste Confidence Hearing.docx; 11-18-13a Filed Comments of Tonja Wicks - Nov 18th NRC Waste Confidence Hearing.pdf

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NRC DOCKET#: NRC-2012-0246
SECY DOCKET DATE: 12/19/13
TITLE: Waste Confidence—Continued Storage of Spent Nuclear Fuel
COMMENT#: 00581

From: tonja.wicks@tlwsupport.com [<mailto:tonja.wicks@tlwsupport.com>]
Sent: Thursday, December 19, 2013 5:20 PM
To: RulemakingComments Resource
Subject: Docket ID NRC-2012-0246-Filed Oral Comments of Tonja Wicks, President and CEO, TLW Legal and Government Support Services

Attached please find the filed submission of Oral Comments presented by Tonja Wicks, President and CEO of TLW Legal and Government Support Services at the November 18, 2013 Public Meeting on "Waste Confidence". Please upload to the official Docket ID NRC-2012-0246.

Thank you

Tonja Wicks,
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Subject: FW: Docket ID NRC-2012-0246-Filed Oral Comments of Tonja Wicks, President and CEO, TLW Legal and Government Support Services
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Public Comment of
Tonja Wicks, President & CEO
TLW Legal and Government Support Services
NRC Waste Confidence Hearing, November 18th
Docket ID NRC-2012-0246
Carlsbad, California
Sheraton Carlsbad Resort & Spa

Good afternoon. My name is Tonja Wicks. I am the President and CEO of TLW Legal and Government Support Services, a minority and woman-owned business, based out of Long Beach, CA and Washington, DC, which specializes in energy and environmental policy consulting. I appreciate the opportunity to provide oral comment on the important topic of waste confidence and its relationship to continued nuclear plant licensing and operations.

I strongly believe that nuclear energy is an integral part of a national energy plan and must continue to generate an essential share of the nation's clean, non-emitting, zero-carbon baseload electricity. Nuclear energy generates 26.5% of the carbon-free electricity produced in our state, according to the Energy Information Administration and nearly 20% of our nation's electricity output.

As a former electric utility executive, I have held several positions throughout my career and participated in and led teams of professionals in many different facets of the energy industry, including energy resource planning activities. And the one conclusion I have come to is that our country, our state, and our cities need a diverse portfolio of energy resources to meet our current and future energy needs. It's imperative that we do not repeat the past and move to an over-reliance on any single generation source, which could lead to potential reliability issues and extreme price volatility. As a result, nuclear energy must remain a vital part of that diverse energy resource mix.

I believe we need to continue to find ways to utilize these resources to meet our energy needs and also keep our local and state economies viable and our residents employed. Our nuclear energy facilities provide substantial economic benefits to the state and local community,

including high-paying jobs and tax revenue that helps keep town services funded and property taxes much lower than they otherwise would be.

On average, a nuclear energy facility generates nearly \$500 million in annual economic output, including more than \$35 million in labor income. Each year, it pays about \$67 million in federal taxes and nearly \$16 million in state and local taxes alone.

While nuclear energy is a vital part of our state's electricity portfolio and economy, we recognize the need to address the transportation, storage and disposal of used nuclear fuel. It is the federal government's statutory responsibility to remove used fuel from nuclear energy facilities. Under federal law, this was to have started in 1998—15 years ago—but so far, the federal government has not moved a single used fuel assembly.

I urge the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to continue its strong, independent oversight of commercial nuclear energy facilities—the operation of existing plants, licensing new reactors, renewing the operating licenses of existing reactors, and the management, transportation and disposal of used nuclear fuel.

I believe it is important for the NRC to continue its practice of conducting regulatory, licensing and oversight activities in an open and transparent manner. Equally important is the need for the NRC to maintain its 24-month schedule for the current waste confidence proceedings to properly inform the process leading to the development of the Generic Environmental Impact Statement and Proposed Rule, so that progress on both nuclear plant licensing and used fuel management can continue.

I would like to thank the NRC for hosting this public meeting and providing an opportunity for comments.

Public Comment of
Tonja Wicks, President & CEO
TLW Legal and Government Support Services
NRC Waste Confidence Hearing, November 18th
Docket ID NRC-2012-0246
Carlsbad, California
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