

FOIA/PA REQUEST

Case No: 2015-0060
Date Rec'd: 10/27/15
Specialist:
Related Cases:

FOIA Resource

From: David Lochbaum <dlochbaum@ucsusa.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 27, 2015 2:32 PM
To: FOIA Resource
Subject: WWW Form Submission

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by David Lochbaum (dlochbaum@ucsusa.org) on Tuesday, October 27, 2015 at 14:31:58 through the IP 209.170.118.134 using the form at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/foia/foia-submittal-form.html> and resulted in this email to foia.resource@nrc.gov

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Desc: All NRC staff, Commission, and ACRS records dated January 1, 2011, and later regarding the Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility. The NRC's website at <http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/regulatory/allegations/stats/3-fuel-rcvd.pdf> indicates that the agency received 25 allegations about this facility during this period. This request seeks records related to these allegations, too. Excluded from this request are records already publicly available in ADAMS or on the NRC's website.

FeeCategory: Educational

MediaType:

MediaType_Other_Description:

Expedite_ImminentThreatText:

Expedite_UrgencyToInformText:

Waiver_Purpose: UCS's Ed Lyman has done considerable work on the MOX facility and the proposed MOX fuel use at U.S. nuclear power reactors. In addition, UCS partners with Tom Clements at the Savannah River Site (SRS) Watch on MOX issues. UCS and SRS Watch are concerned about construction problems at the MOX fuel fabrication facility and seek the requested records to better understand the extent and nature of these problems.

Waiver_ExtentToExtractAnalyze: We will review the requested records, along with publicly available documents such as the NRC inspection report dated July 23, 2015, to understand the extent and nature of construction problems at this site.

Waiver_SpecificActivityQuals: We have monitored other construction activities, such as the recent completion of the Unit 2 reactor at Watts Bar and the construction-like efforts leading to the restart of the Unit 1 reactor at Browns Ferry from a 22-year outage. UCS has also monitored efforts to remedy large accumulations of problems, such as the 30-month outage at Fort Calhoun and earlier prolonged outages at Davis-Besse, Millstone, and Salem. This awareness of operational experience will help UCS put the problems at the MOX fuel fabrication facility in proper context and to gauge whether the appropriate measures are implemented to correct problems and avoid recurrence.

Waiver_ImpactPublicUnderstanding: The public can see snippets of information, like the 25 allegations received by the NRC regarding the MOX site from 2011 through September 2015 and the more than 100 weld problems mentioned in the NRC's July 23, 2015, inspection report. But these data snippets lack context that UCS seeks to provide by our review of the requested records against our awareness of prior construction efforts and troubled sites. We hope to be able to report whether the 25 allegations is a good thing, bad thing, ongoing thing, or past thing.

Waiver_NatureOfPublic: The MOX site has attracted considerable public attention due to repeated battles at the national level whether to continue funding an over-budget project. The context UCS seeks to provide should be of interest to that segment of the public.

Waiver_MeansOfDissemination: UCS has a website (www.ucsusa.org) and blog (allthingsnuclear.org) that we post fact sheets, commentaries, short reports, and long reports to. UCS will likely use several of these options to communicate the findings and conclusions from our review of the requested records.

Waiver_FreeToPublicOrFee: Materials posted to our website and blog are available for viewing/downloading free of charge.

Waiver_PrivateCommericalInterest: None.
