

Brent D. Ward
1443 El Rey Street
Salt Lake City, Utah 84108

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Mr. David L. Meyer
Chief, Rules Review and Directives Branch
Division of FOI and Publications Services
Office of Administration
Mailstop T-6D-59
U.S Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

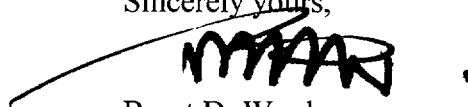
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Mr. Meyer:

Here are brief written comments from the July 27, 2000 hearing before the NRC panel in Salt Lake City.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,


Brent D. Ward

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Add: S. Flanders (SCF)

STATEMENT OF BRENT D. WARD

**Before a Panel of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Little America Hotel
Salt Lake City, Utah
7:00 p.m., July 27, 2000**

My name is Brent Ward. I am an attorney currently serving as Executive Vice President of Star Bridge Systems, a technology company in the Salt Lake valley. I was U.S. Attorney for the District of Utah during the 1980s.

I recently joined the three-member Executive Committee of Citizens Against Radioactive Waste in Utah, an organization headed by former Utah Governor Norman Bangerter, former U.S. Senators E.J. "Jake" Garn and Frank E. Moss and former U.S. Representative Wayne Owens, all of Utah.

I would like to give the Panel a brief insight into political realities that I believe may yet have an impact on the implementation of a decision in favor of the PFS license application. This is an impact that obviously was not addressed in the DEIS, but perhaps it is not too far fetched to suggest that it should be carefully considered before the final decision is made.

Where there is a widespread perception by a populace that it is the victim of government action that will seriously prejudice fundamental rights and interests, there is the potential of political ferment from which strong opposition may arise.

Where that perception is augmented by a sense that our populace is being asked to assume a burden that in fairness should be borne by a wide range of communities, especially where it is a burden to which we have not in any way contributed, that opposition could become galvanized into potent political action.

If we believe this public hearing process is merely a rote exercise and our input is merely an afterthought;

If we find ourselves powerless and at the mercy of few tribal members who see dollar signs and a few county commissioners who lack a true sense of their public duty;

If we come to believe that in the minds of the power brokers we are secretly objects of their contempt who are irrelevant and can be easily pacified;

Then the fuse could be lit on a political uprising the likes of which one of us can predict.

That is the impact that I am talking about. It is very real and very powerful in its potential. It could subsume all environmental, socioeconomic, safety and scientific impacts.

We have a heritage here of actively evading government action that is unfair and oppressive, which is one definition of corrupt government action. Our ancestors came here at great sacrifice to escape such government action. Pursuing a scorched-earth policy, they later abandoned this city in the face of such government action.

In my view there is the possibility that political realities will render implementation of a decision in favor of PFS a practical impossibility and that if this project proceeds, whatever millions are spent in constructing a high-level nuclear waste dump here will ultimately be lost perhaps with no alternative in sight.

Thank you.