

September 12, 2000

Mr. Kevin Kamps
Nuclear Waste Specialist
Nuclear Information and Resource Service
1424 16th Street, NW, Suite 404
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Mr. Kamps:

I am responding to your August 31, 2000, letter to Mr. David Meyer of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) Office of Administration. Your letter and the petition attached to it requested an extension to the public comment period for the "Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Construction and Operation of an Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation on the Reservation of the Skull Valley Band of Goshute Indians and the Related Transportation Facility in Tooele County, Utah," NUREG-1714, dated June 2000. You also requested that additional meetings be held in States that might be along future transportation corridors, should the proposed Private Fuel Storage, L.L.C. license application be approved and the proposed Private Fuel Storage Facility become operational.

Your letter (and the petition) requests a 60-day extension to the established 90-day public comment period for the DEIS. In consultation with the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the Surface Transportation Board (the three Federal agencies cooperating with NRC in the development of this DEIS), we have determined that the requested extension is not warranted. A 90-day public comment period generally is longer than the time period required by three of the four cooperating Federal agencies for noticing a DEIS prepared under our jurisdictions (see, e.g., 10 CFR 51.73). However, we believe that 90 days is a sufficient time period for review and comment on this document. Some comments have already been received, well in advance of the closing date. There has been ample opportunity for public involvement in the DEIS development process. This has been accomplished through the environmental impact statement scoping process and through the existing extensive public comment period. At the several public DEIS scoping meetings in Salt Lake City (1998 and 1999) and Tooele (1999), Utah, the staff discussed its proposed schedule and provided contact information for parties interested in further information or discussions. The scoping meetings were noticed in the Federal Register (63 Fed. Reg. 24197, 64 Fed. Reg. 18491). Nonetheless, it should also be noted that, to the extent practical, comments received after the close of the comment period will be considered.

K. Kamps

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Regarding the request for meetings along transportation routes, it is not appropriate to hold these meetings now, because no specific routes have been established. However, members of the public should feel free to contact us with additional comments, questions, and concerns about this subject.

If you wish any further information regarding NRC staff activities associated with the PFS license application, please contact me at (301) 415-8518.

Sincerely,
/RA/ original signed by
Mark S. Delligatti
Spent Fuel Licensing Section
Spent Fuel Project Office
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

K. Kamps

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