



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

NAVAL SEA SYSTEMS COMMAND
2531 JEFFERSON DAVIS HWY
ARLINGTON, VA 22242-5160

IN REPLY REFER TO
May 1, 1996

al Brant

Dear Sir/~~Madam~~

The Department of the Navy is pleased to provide for your review and comment the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for a Container System for the Management of Naval Spent Nuclear Fuel. The DEIS has been prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality regulations implementing NEPA (40 CFR 1500-1508) and the Chief of Naval Operations Environmental and Natural Resources Program Manual, OPNAV Instruction 5090.1B. Approximately 1300 copies of the DEIS are being mailed to individuals nationwide.

The Navy generates small amounts of spent nuclear fuel as a consequence of the operation of its nuclear powered submarines, aircraft carriers, and guided missile cruisers. The total amount projected to be generated by the year 2035 is 65 metric tons, less than 0.1% of the amount of commercial spent fuel expected by that date (approximately 85,000 metric tons).

The DEIS addresses the need, alternatives, and environmental impacts of manufacturing containers; loading containers; handling and dry storage of naval spent nuclear fuel at the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory; transportation of naval spent nuclear fuel loaded containers to a notional repository or centralized interim storage site; and the storage, handling, and transportation of certain radioactive waste associated with naval spent nuclear fuel management. Six alternative container systems for the management of naval spent nuclear fuel are evaluated: multi-purpose canisters; current technology; current technology supplemented by high capacity rail; dual-purpose canisters; transportable storage casks; and small multi-purpose canisters. The Navy has not identified a preferred alternative at this time. One will be identified in the Final EIS after consideration of public comments.

The Department of the Navy will hold hearings during the 45 day public comment period to inform the public of the DEIS contents and to facilitate the receipt of comments. A notice will appear in the Federal Register in May 1996 announcing dates, times and places for the hearings, but the tentative schedule is provided below:

Date	Time	Location
June 3, 1996	1 PM - 5 PM 7 PM - 11 PM	The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes' Tribal Business Center Pima Drive Fort Hall, Idaho
June 5, 1996	1 PM - 5 PM 7 PM - 11 PM	The Boise Centre on the Grove 850 W. Front Street Boise, Idaho
June 7, 1996	1 PM - 5 PM 7 PM - 11 PM	Best Western Olympus Hotel 161 West 600 South Salt Lake City, Utah

Federal, state and local agencies and interested parties are invited to attend or be represented at the hearing. Oral comments will be heard and transcribed by a stenographer. Written copies of comments are also welcome to help ensure the accuracy of the record. Persons who do not wish to or cannot attend a hearing may submit comments in writing by mail to Mr. William Knoll, Department of the Navy, Code NAVSEA 08U, 2531 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA 22242-5160. All statements, both oral and written, will receive equal consideration and will become part of the public record on this matter.

For your information, enclosure (1) contains a list of libraries and reading rooms where copies of the DEIS have been placed to facilitate public review.

We appreciate your interest in this matter and look forward to receiving any comments you may have. Additional information may be obtained by contacting Mr. Knoll at (703) 602-8229.

Richard A. Guida

Richard A. Guida
Associate Director
for Regulatory Affairs
Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program

Enclosure

Hello there:

A Since we don't want to ship this crap into space on an isolated planet (which we could do. They should put it in Area 51 Groom² Lake. The sight that they are wasting so much money on I feel is not good due to the 5 ext volcanoes. _____ Al Breau

Commenter: Al Breaux, Nevada

Response to Comment:

- A. The location of a geologic repository is beyond the scope of this EIS. As discussed in Chapter 3, the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 1987 designates Yucca Mountain at the Department of Energy's Nevada Test Site as the only site currently authorized by legislation to be characterized as a geologic repository, and its suitability has not yet been determined. The analysis in this EIS covers transportation from the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory to the Yucca Mountain location as a representative or notional destination to allow for a comparison of the container systems. This EIS does not make presumptions concerning the Yucca Mountain site's suitability for a geologic repository or designation for use as a centralized storage site. If the Yucca Mountain site is found suitable for a repository and Department of Energy recommends its development to the President, the Nuclear Waste Policy Act requires that development of the Yucca Mountain site as a geologic repository must be supported by an EIS. The scope of a repository EIS is discussed in a Notice of Intent that Department of Energy issued in the Federal Register on August 7, 1995.