



## United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
Washington, D.C. 20240

27

In Reply Refer To:  
ER 96/410

JUN 27 1996

Mr. William Knoll  
Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program  
Department of the Navy, Code NAVSEA 08U  
2531 Jefferson Davis Highway  
Arlington, VA 22242-5160

Dear Mr. Knoll:

This is in regard to the request for the Department of the Interior's comments on the draft environmental impact statement concerning Proposed Container System for the Management of Naval Spent Nuclear Fuel.

A This is to inform you that the Department may have comments, but will be unable to reply within the allotted time as we have just received your transmittal of sufficient copies to satisfy our intradepartmental needs. Please consider this letter as a request for an extension of time in which to comment on the draft statement.

Our comments should be available by mid August, 1996.

Sincerely,

Terence N. Martin  
Team Leader, Natural Resources  
Management  
Office of Environmental Policy  
and Compliance



IN REPLY REFER TO:

## United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance  
500 NE Multnomah Street, Suite 600  
Portland, Oregon 97232-2036

August 15, 1996

ER 96/410

William Knoll  
Department of the Navy  
Code NAVSEA 08U  
2531 Jefferson Davis Highway  
Arlington, Virginia 22242-5160

Dear Mr. Knoll:

The Department of the Interior (Department) has reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Container System for the Management of Naval Spent Nuclear Fuel, Idaho. The Department does not have any comments to offer.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Preston Sleeper  
Acting Regional Environmental Officer



**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY**

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

IN REPLY REFER TO

11 July 1996

Mr. Terence N. Martin  
Team Leader, Natural Resources Management  
Office of Environmental Policy  
and Compliance  
Office of the Secretary  
United States Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Martin:

Thank you for your letter of June 27, 1996 received on July 3, 1996 concerning the Navy's draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a Container System for the Management of Naval Spent Nuclear Fuel. Your letter stated that the Department of the Interior (DOI) would be unable to respond to the Navy's request for comments within the allotted comment period because the DOI had just received sufficient copies (18) to satisfy interdepartmental needs. Your letter requested that the comment period for the draft EIS be extended and noted that comments should be available by mid-August 1996.

As you may be aware, to facilitate DOI review, the Navy had supplied five copies of the draft EIS to five different DOI offices in early May as part of the initial distribution of the document; attached is a list of those offices and individuals from page J-2 of the draft EIS. We supplied 18 additional copies in mid-June upon oral request by your office.

As Will Knoll of my staff previously apprised Ms. Stone of your staff, the Navy has already extended the comment period from 45 days to 60 days (ending July 18, 1996) in response to requests from the State of Nevada. We cannot provide a further extension because of the need to complete the EIS to support actions required under a court ordered agreement among the DOE, Navy and State of Idaho covering spent fuel management at the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory. Thus, recognizing this time frame, we appreciate and welcome any comments you may have, and will do what we can to include them in the final EIS depending upon when they arrive.

We appreciate your interest in this matter. Please contact me at 703-602-8229 if there are any questions.

Sincerely,

*Richard A. Guida*

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

Enclosure

## J. DISTRIBUTION (Cont.)

Elaine Chan  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
Washington, DC

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Carlsbad, NM

The Honorable Helen Chenoweth  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC

Raymond Clark  
Council on Environmental Quality  
Washington, DC

The Honorable William S. Cohen  
U.S. Senate  
Augusta, ME

Ben F. Collins  
EM Site Specific Advisory Board  
Buhl, ID

Commandant  
U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters  
Washington, DC

The Honorable Lawrence E. Craig  
U.S. Senate  
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The Honorable Michael Crapo  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC

Ada Deer  
Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
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U.S. Department of Commerce  
Idaho Falls, ID

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House of Representatives  
Las Vegas, NV

The Honorable Slade Gorton  
U.S. Senate  
Seattle, WA

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EM Site Specific Advisory Board  
Idaho Falls, ID

Joel R. Hamilton  
EM Site Specific Advisory Board  
Moscow, ID

The Honorable James Hansen  
House of Representatives  
Ogden, UT

The Honorable Orrin G. Hatch  
U.S. Senate  
Salt Lake City, UT

D. Marc Haws  
Asst. U.S. Attorney  
Boise, ID

Stanley Hobson  
EM Site Specific Advisory Board  
Idaho Falls, ID

INEL Boise Office  
Boise, ID

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye  
U.S. Senate  
Honolulu, HI

Douglas J. James  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Boise, ID

Jonathon Jarvis  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Arco, ID

The Honorable Dirk Kempthorne  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC

Dieter Knecht  
EM Site Specific Advisory Board  
Idaho Falls, ID

Daniel Kotansky  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Idaho Falls, ID

John Krause  
Bureau Of Indian Affairs  
Phoenix, AZ

Jerome Leitch  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 10  
Seattle, WA

The Honorable James B. Longley, Jr.  
House of Representatives  
Portland, ME

Robert R. Loux  
Agency for Nuclear Projects  
Nuclear Waste Project Office  
Carson City, NV

Meg Lusardi  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC

Dean Mahoney  
EM Site Specific Advisory Board  
Lewiston, ID

Linda Milam  
EM Site Specific Advisory Board  
Idaho Falls, ID

Leland Roy Mink  
EM Site Specific Advisory Board  
Idaho Falls, ID

The Honorable Patricia Murray  
U.S. Senate  
Seattle, WA

The Honorable William Orton  
House of Representatives  
Provo, UT

Terry L. Perez  
EM Site Specific Advisory Board  
Idaho Falls, ID

Maxwell Powell  
Office of Public Affairs  
Yucca Mountain Site  
Characterization Office  
Las Vegas, NV

E.W. Pritchard  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Railroad Administration  
Washington, DC

The Honorable Harry Reid  
U.S. Senate  
Las Vegas, NV

Charles Rice  
EM Site Specific Advisory Board  
Idaho Falls, ID

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Richmond, VA

Richard E. Sanderson  
Office of Federal Activities  
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Agency  
Washington, DC

Joel Siegel  
Housing And Urban Development  
Washington, DC

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EM Site Specific Advisory Board  
Boise, ID

Vicki Snitzler  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Arco, ID

The Honorable Olympia J. Snowe  
U.S. Senate  
Bangor, ME

Richard Suckel  
EM Site Specific Advisory Board  
Fort Hall, ID

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Idaho Falls, ID

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Idaho Falls, ID

U.S. Department of Commerce  
Boise, ID

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
Boise, ID

George L. Vivian  
U.S. Bureau of Mines  
Idaho Falls, ID

The Honorable Barbara Vucanovich  
House of Representatives  
Reno, NV

Commenter: Terence N. Martin - U.S. Department of the Interior/Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance, Washington, D.C.

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Response to Comment:

- A. To facilitate Department of the Interior review, the Navy had supplied five copies of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement to five different Department of the Interior offices in early May 1996 as part of the initial distribution of the document. The Navy supplied 18 additional copies in mid-June upon oral request by the Department of the Interior.

As discussed in a Navy letter to the Department of the Interior dated July 11, 1996, the Navy had already extended the comment period from 45 days to 60 days (ending July 18, 1996) in response to requests from the State of Nevada. A further extension could not be provided because of the need to complete the EIS to support actions required under a court order agreement among the Department of Energy, Navy, and State of Idaho covering spent fuel management at the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory.

In a subsequent letter dated August 15, 1996, the Department of the Interior advised that they had completed their review and had no comments.