

City of Amarillo, Texas

Comments of Hon. Dianne Bosch Regarding the DOE Surplus Plutonium Disposition Draft Environmental Impact Statement

I would like to begin by thanking the Department of Energy for the opportunity to comment on matters of great importance to the Amarillo area. As a City Commissioner for the largest city in this region, let me say that I strongly favor the Pantex Plant as the single preferred alternative for the DOE's Pit Disassembly and Conversion mission.

This mission has been extensively reviewed by experts from federal and state government agencies, university researchers and workers from Pantex. Based on their reports, I believe that the Pit Disassembly and Conversion facility can be operated in a manner that does not threaten our precious natural resources. Specifically, I believe that this facility would not pose a threat to the Ogallala aquifer, which supplies irrigation and drinking water to this region.

One reason for my confidence in the safety of this mission is the excellent work force at Pantex. Pantex has been a good neighbor to our city for over 50 years. Pantex has the best radiological safety record in the nuclear complex, and it is the only site that has a large number of workers who are specifically trained to handle and safeguard plutonium weapons components. The components, often called "pits," are already safely stored at Pantex.

The Pantex workforce is second-to-none in its implementation of safety initiatives such as the Voluntary Protection Program. This employee-based safety program has been successful in reducing occupational hazards and has become a model for the entire DOE weapons complex. In addition, the Metal

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TXD29

TXD29-1

Alternatives

DOE acknowledges the commentor's support for siting the pit conversion facility at Pantex. As the commentor points out, and as indicated in Chapter 4 of Volume I, impacts of operating the pit conversion facility on health, safety, and the environment at Pantex would likely be minor. Decisions on the surplus plutonium disposition at Pantex will be based on such environmental analyses, as well as technical and cost reports, national policy and nonproliferation considerations, and public input. DOE will announce its decisions regarding facility siting and approach to surplus plutonium disposition in the SPD EIS ROD.

**AMARILLO
HONORABLE DIANNE BOSCH
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Hon. Dianne Bosch
Page 2

Trades Council has safety officers to whom employees may directly address safety concerns. The Savannah River Site does not have either of these important safety programs in place.

The Department of Energy should carefully consider the enhanced safety programs already in place at Pantex when deciding where to locate the Pit Disassembly and Conversion Facility. Furthermore, the Department should understand that union support in Washington will play a crucial role in getting this expensive program funded by the Congress. A viable Pantex plant, with the strong bi-partisan support of the Texas congressional delegation and the national AFL-CIO is important to the long-term future of both the Surplus Plutonium Disposition program and the DOE weapons complex.

Pantex has the key technical and political advantages that make it the only logical choice for Pit Disassembly and Conversion. I urge the Secretary of Energy to name Pantex as the site for this important mission. Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment.

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TXD29

City of Amarillo, Texas

Comments of Hon. Robert Keys Regarding the DOE Surplus Plutonium Disposition Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Welcome to Amarillo and thank you to the Department of Energy for allowing the elected officials and residents of the Amarillo area comment on the Surplus Plutonium Disposition program. Pantex is a very important part of the economy for the entire northwest region of the state of Texas. As such, the economic future of this area is tied very closely to the future of the Pantex Plant.

The Amarillo City Commission has supported new missions at Pantex for many years. We have insisted, and continue to insist, that all such missions be conducted in a manner that protects the natural resources of the Texas panhandle. My fellow Commissioners and I believe that the Pit Disassembly and Conversion and MOX fuel manufacturing missions can, and should be, performed in a safe manner at Pantex.

When I am not wearing my "City Commissioner" hat, I operate a land surveying business. On numerous occasions, I have performed surveying work at Pantex. I am always impressed with the care shown by employees at the plant regarding care for the environment. The pump-and-treat and ground water monitoring systems in place at Pantex are state of the art. I have every confidence that the employees at Pantex would perform the Pit Disassembly and Conversion and MOX manufacturing missions with great care and in a manner that protects the environment of this region.

Furthermore, on my visits to Pantex, I am always impressed with the outstanding security procedures in place to protect classified weapons

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TXD28

TXD28-1

Alternatives

DOE acknowledges the commentor's support for siting the pit conversion and MOX facilities at Pantex. Decisions on the surplus plutonium disposition program at Pantex will be based on environmental analyses, technical and cost reports, national policy and nonproliferation considerations, and public input. DOE will announce its decisions regarding facility siting and approach to surplus plutonium disposition in the SPD EIS ROD.

**AMARILLO
HONORABLE ROBERT KEYS
PAGE 2 OF 2**

Hon. Robert Keys
Page 2

components. With recent announcements of underground nuclear testing by India and Pakistan, and with well known weapons programs in Iraq, Iran and North Korea; it is obvious that many countries or other groups would like to have weapons such as those at Pantex. For this reason, the DOE's own non-proliferation experts have recommended that the transport of plutonium weapons components should be minimized. The United States even pays Russia to minimize the transport of their weapons components. Surely, if we are spending US tax dollars in Russia to minimize transport of their weapons, we should also be willing to equally safeguard our nuclear secrets in this country.

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The workforce in the Texas panhandle is truly outstanding. We just received confirmation of this fact when Bell Helicopter announced plans to assemble the V-22 Osprey Tiltrotor aircraft in Amarillo. Surely the DOE should also recognize the outstanding work ethic and expertise of the people of this region. You need not look further than this room tonight to see evidence of the passion, integrity and expertise of Pantex workers from the panhandle of Texas. These same employees are the best qualified to work with plutonium pits removed from nuclear weapons. Since these pits are already stored at Pantex, the Pit Disassembly and Conversion and MOX Fuel Manufacturing missions should also be performed at Pantex.

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Once again, thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important matter. I urge the Secretary of Energy to name Pantex as the site for Surplus Plutonium Disposition missions.

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TXD28

TXD28-2

DOE Policy

DOE acknowledges the commentor's concern regarding safe transport of weapons-usable plutonium. In order to address security against terrorist-related incidents, all intersite shipments of plutonium for the surplus plutonium disposition program would be made using DOE's SST/SGT system. This involves having couriers that are armed Federal officers, an armored tractor to protect the crew from attack, and specially designed escort vehicles containing advanced communications and additional couriers. The transportation of special nuclear materials is the subject of detailed planning with DOE's Transportation Safeguards Division. The dates and times that specific transportation routes would be used for special nuclear materials are classified information; however, the number of shipments that would be required, by location, has been included in Appendix L of this SPD EIS. Additional details are provided in *Fissile Materials Disposition Program SST/SGT Transportation Estimation* (SAND98-8244, June 1998), which is available on the MD Web site at <http://www.doe-md.com>.



CITY OF AMARILLO

August 10, 1998

Good Afternoon,

As always, I would like to thank the Department of Energy for the opportunity to provide comments on this most important issue. For the last four to five years, members of this community have come to these hearings you have provided for many issues relating to the Pantex Plant. We take time out of our days to do this because we care about the outcome of Pantex and the workforce who has provided a security comfort to the entire nation for many decades.

The issue involving pit disassembly may be the biggest issue that we as a nation will face going into the next millennium. The safety of our entire nation is at stake. The components making up our nuclear arsenal should be handled with the greatest of care in order to make certain that our environment doesn't suffer from this obviously needed procedure. Pantex has had the gargantuan task of providing this service to our nation for many years. The plant has always performed in the safest manner possible for the workers, environment and surrounding community members.

I represent the city of Amarillo as an elected official. For close to eight years the people have been asking me to speak in favor of expanded activity at the Pantex Plant. Today I come to you as an elected official as well as a resident of Amarillo to do just that. I believe there is only one site that has a proven positive track record in the handling of plutonium after disassembly, Pantex. The workers have proven that safety comes first before production, and have more experience in handling plutonium pits than any other site in the complex. The DOE should not place classified weapons components in the hands of employees at the Savannah River Site who have extremely limited experience in dealing with pits.

Just one advantage Pantex has over Savannah River Site is that converting classified plutonium weapons components ("pits") into non-classified forms at Pantex requires no off-site shipment of pits. Performing the work at Pantex would

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TXD02-1

Alternatives

DOE acknowledges the commentor's support for siting the pit conversion facility at Pantex. Decisions on the surplus plutonium disposition program at Pantex will be based on such environmental analyses, as well as technical and cost reports, national policy and nonproliferation considerations, and public input. DOE will announce its decisions regarding facility siting and approach to surplus plutonium disposition in the SPD EIS ROD.

TXD02-2

Alternatives

As indicated in the revised Section 1.6, SRS is preferred for the pit conversion facility because the site has extensive experience with plutonium processing, and the pit conversion facility complements existing missions and takes advantage of existing infrastructure.

TXD02-3

Transportation

DOE acknowledges the commentor's concern for the security of offsite shipment of pits. As indicated in Section 2.18, no traffic fatalities from nonradiological accidents or LCFs from radiological exposures or vehicle emissions are expected. Transportation would be required for both the immobilization and MOX approaches to surplus plutonium disposition. Transportation of special nuclear materials, including fresh MOX fuel, would use DOE's SST/SGT system. Since the establishment of the DOE Transportation Safeguards Division in 1975, the SST/SGT system has transported DOE-owned cargo over more than 151 million km (94 million mi) with no accidents causing a fatality or release of radioactive material. The transportation requirements for the surplus plutonium disposition program are also evaluated in this SPD EIS. Section 2.4.4.1 discusses safety measures taken for shipment of pits.

**AMARILLO
HONORABLE KEVIN KNAPP
PAGE 2 OF 2**

decrease the risk of classified weapons parts falling into unfriendly hands. The DOE should heed the advise of its own nuclear non-proliferation experts who have argued to minimize shipments of pits. 3

Given these advantages and many others that have or will be mentioned today, I urge you to give full consideration to Pantex for the mission of pit disassembly and disposal.

Sincerely,



Kevin Knapp
Amarillo City Commissioner

TXD02

**AUGUST 11, 1998
COMMENTS OF HONORABLE KEL SELIGER REGARDING
THE DOE SURPLUS PLUTONIUM DISPOSITION
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Department this evening. We live in exciting times in Amarillo and in the United States. The dawn of a new millennium is a signal that we are going to see the tremendous changes in the years ahead. However, our focus on the future should not be interpreted as an endorsement of forgetting our history. A big part of the history of this nation during the last half of the 20th century has been the nuclear weapons program. Amarillo and Pantex are proud to have played a big part in the success of that program for nearly 50 years. We believe that we are an irreplaceable element in this era of disarmament.

The success of the Pantex plant over the past 50 years should not be forgotten when considering the future of the nuclear weapons complex. Pantex has long had one of the lowest operating costs in the weapons complex and it has had excellent relations between the contractor and the largest labor bargaining unit. Pantex is among the cleanest weapons complex sites from an environmental perspective. The Department has recently

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TXD37

TXD37-1

Alternatives

DOE acknowledges the commentor's support of Pantex. Decisions on the surplus plutonium disposition program at Pantex will be based on environmental analyses, technical and cost reports, national policy and nonproliferation considerations, and public input.

Hon. Kel Seliger
August 11, 1998
Page 2

recommended that Pantex be removed from the National Priorities List because of the excellent progress being made in the environmental area. Pantex has long had outstanding support of the public in the Texas panhandle and the elected officials who represent this area at the local, state and federal levels.

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When considering the future mission assignments that could come to Pantex, such as the Pit Disassembly and Conversion and MOX Fuel missions, the DOE should consider the substantial strengths possessed by Pantex. The recent financial analysis conducted by the DOE shows that there is no significant cost difference between Pantex and Savannah River. In fact, I believe that report significantly underestimates the cost of repackaging pits for off-site transport from Pantex to Savannah River if the South Carolina site is chosen for both new missions. In addition to the cost of shipping pits, the Department should listen carefully to its own non-proliferation experts who favor the minimization of pit transport.

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From an environmental aspect, the Department has shown that both pit

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TXD37

TXD37-2

Transportation

DOE acknowledges the commentor's support for siting the pit conversion and MOX facilities at Pantex. Because this comment relates directly to the cost analysis report, it has been forwarded to the cost analysis team for consideration. The *Plutonium Disposition Life-Cycle Costs and Cost-Related Comment Resolution Document* (DOE/MD-0013, November 1999), which covers recent life-cycle cost analyses associated with the preferred alternative, is available on the MD Web site at <http://www.doe-md.com> and in the public reading rooms at the following locations: Hanford, INEEL, Pantex, SRS and Washington, D.C.

The transportation requirements for the surplus plutonium disposition program are evaluated in this SPD EIS. If the pit conversion facility were located at Pantex (Alternative 5), the risks from transportation-related radiological exposures would be an estimated 7.8×10^{-2} LCF, and from traffic accidents (non-radiological), an estimated 5.2×10^{-2} fatality. For comparison, if the pit conversion facility was located at SRS (Alternative 3), the risks would be slightly higher, 8.0×10^{-2} LCF and 5.6×10^{-2} fatality, respectively. Transportation impacts are summarized in Chapter 4 of Volume I and Appendix L. As indicated in Section 2.18, no traffic fatalities from nonradiological accidents or LCFs from radiological exposures or vehicle emissions are expected.

TXD37-3

Alternatives

This comment is addressed in response TXD37-1.

Hon. Kel Seliger
August 11, 1998
Page 3

disassembly and MOX fuel manufacture can be done without harm to the natural environment. The choice comes down to where the work will be done correctly. Pantex has a continuing production mission and a highly qualified workforce that pays careful attention to detail. The very people who are promoting the Savannah River Site for this work say in essence “put the missions here because we are a dirty site and we don’t care if we get it dirtier.” In the future, can DOE afford to have that attitude prevail? We believe this work can be done safely, but only if it is performed by employees who have a true commitment to doing so. Pantex employees have long demonstrated such a commitment.

I would like to remind the Department that it has enjoyed strong support from the Texas Delegation in the Congress to accomplish its defense, maintenance and remediation missions. This same delegation has supported Pit Disassembly, Conversion and MOX production at the Pantex plant.

There is no reason to assume that there will be such support in transporting weapons ready plutonium half way across the country. That is, unless the

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TXD37

TXD37-4

DOE Policy

DOE acknowledges the commentor’s concern for environmental issues related to surplus plutonium disposition. Cleanup at SRS is a priority and will remain a priority, and can coexist with other DOE initiatives. Although the surplus plutonium disposition program is also considered a top priority, it would be conducted in such a way that any additional waste would be processed and disposed of in a timely and environmentally acceptable manner.

TXD37-5

Alternatives

This comment is addressed in response TXD37-1.

TXD37-6

Transportation

This SPD EIS analyzes the risk involved in transporting weapons-usable plutonium between DOE sites for processing. Transportation would be required for both the immobilization and MOX approaches to surplus plutonium disposition. Transportation of special nuclear materials, including fresh MOX fuel, would use DOE’s SST/SGT system. Since the establishment of the DOE Transportation Safeguards Division in 1975, the SST/SGT system has transported DOE-owned cargo over more than 151 million km (94 million mi) with no accidents causing a fatality or release of radioactive material. As discussed in Appendix L.3.2, key characteristics of the SST/SGT system include, but are not limited to, couriers who are armed Federal officers, specially designed escort vehicles, 24-hour real-time monitoring, and stringent maintenance standards. Appendix L.6.5 discusses sabotage or terrorist attack during transportation.

Hon. Kel Seliger
August 11, 1998
Page 4

Department of Energy has decided that minimization of the risk of proliferation is no longer a priority. I have seen no such pronouncement.

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I urge the Secretary of Energy to carefully consider all of these aspects before making a final decision on the site location for Pit Disassembly and Conversion and MOX fuel manufacturing. Keeping these factors in mind, I strongly recommend that the Secretary name the Pantex Plant for these missions.

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TXD37

TXD37-7

This comment is addressed in response TXD37-1.

Alternatives



CITY OF AMARILLO

Comments of Hon. Trent Sisemore Regarding the DOE Surplus Plutonium Disposition Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to represent my constituents in Amarillo by making comments on the draft EIS for Surplus Plutonium Disposition. It is an honor to represent more than 170,000 residents in Amarillo. Thousands of those residents are either Pantex employees or live in households of Pantex employees. Pantex has a profound effect on our local economy. I am proud of the support that the people of Amarillo have shown for the Pantex facility, and it is my pleasure to state that I wholeheartedly support the location of the Pit Disassembly and Conversion Facility and MOX Fuel Fabrication Facility at Pantex.

In addition to representing the citizens of Amarillo as a City Commissioner, I am also a retailer and music minister. Since none of these "credentials" qualify me as an expert in nuclear physics, I have sought to become familiar with Pantex and the proposed new missions that may come to Pantex. In my research on Pantex, I have read reports, talked with experts and even toured nuclear facilities in England and France.

After having done all that, one fact stands out. The type of work envisioned in the plutonium disposition program can be done safely by the outstanding employees at Pantex. In fact, the DOE has said that both the pit disassembly and MOX fuel missions can be done safely at Pantex. Furthermore, the DOE has stated that the anticipated cost differences between the sites being considered for these new missions are insignificant relative to the anticipated margin-of-error of the financial analysis. In the absence of major discriminators between the sites, the decision is likely to be very political.

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TXD27

TXD27-1

Alternatives

DOE acknowledges the commentor's support for siting the pit conversion and MOX facilities at Pantex. Although cost will be a factor in the decisionmaking process, this SPD EIS contains environmental impact data and does not address the costs associated with the various alternatives. A separate cost report, *Cost Analysis in Support of Site Selection for Surplus Weapons-Usable Plutonium Disposition* (DOE/MD-0009, July 1998), which analyzes the site-specific cost estimates for each alternative, was made available around the same time as the SPD Draft EIS. This report and the *Plutonium Disposition Life-Cycle Costs and Cost-Related Comment Resolution Document* (DOE/MD-0013, November 1999), which covers recent life-cycle cost analyses associated with the preferred alternative, are available on the MD Web site at <http://www.doe-md.com> and in the public reading rooms at the following locations: Hanford, INEEL, Pantex, SRS and Washington, D.C. Decisions on the surplus plutonium disposition program at Pantex will be based on environmental analyses, technical and cost reports, national policy and nonproliferation considerations, and public input. DOE will announce its decisions regarding facility siting and approach to surplus plutonium disposition in the SPD EIS ROD.

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Hon. Trent Sisemore
Page 2

The dual-track method of plutonium disposition is the best way for the United States and Russia to permanently reduce the amount of weapons grade plutonium in their nuclear stockpiles. This is an important task but it will be a controversial process because of the dedicated efforts of anti-nuclear activists around the globe. While it is my opinion that many of these activists are opposed to anything nuclear, they seem particularly opposed to the use of plutonium as a fuel in nuclear reactors. Keeping this controversy in mind, it is important for the Department to develop a program that has broad ranging support among Democrats, Republicans, state leaders, local officials, Indian tribes, and labor unions in many states to assure that this important function gets the funding in Congress necessary to carry out the program. Pantex offers strong, bipartisan support from local, state and federal officeholders and the labor movement.

2

The Department has already chosen the Savannah River Site in South Carolina for the important task of immobilizing so called "non-pit" plutonium. In addition South Carolina has been chosen to produce tritium for weapons in the future. Since South Carolina has already received a great deal of new work, the Department should now place some new missions at Pantex. The powerful support of the Texas Congressional delegation will be crucial in getting this program funded. I encourage you to solidify that support by naming Pantex as the preferred alternative site for the pit disassembly and conversion and MOX fuel missions.

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Thank you for the chance to be heard on this issue.



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TXD27

TXD27-2

DOE Policy

DOE acknowledges the commentor's support for the hybrid approach. Pursuing both immobilization and MOX fuel fabrication provides the United States important insurance against potential disadvantages of implementing either approach by itself. The hybrid approach also provides the best opportunity for U.S. leadership in working with Russia to implement similar options for reducing Russia's excess plutonium in parallel. Further, it sends the strongest possible signal to the world of U.S. determination to reduce stockpiles of surplus plutonium as quickly as possible and in a manner that would make it technically difficult to use the plutonium in nuclear weapons again. The U.S. Congress is supportive of DOE's efforts to implement U.S. nonproliferation policy.

TXD27-3

Alternatives

As indicated in the revised Section 1.6, SRS is preferred for the proposed surplus plutonium disposition facilities because the site has extensive experience with plutonium processing, and these facilities complement existing missions and take advantage of existing infrastructure.



AMARILLO ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®, INC.

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RESOLUTION

Whereas, the Department of Energy is seeking comments on the Surplus Plutonium Disposition Environmental Impact Statement; and

Whereas, the Secretary of Energy should name the Pantex Plant as the preferred site for the Pit Disassembly and Conversion Facility in the final Surplus Plutonium Disposition Environmental Impact Statement,

NOW THEREFORE,

We, the Board of Directors of the Amarillo Association of REALTORS® which represents over 500 members, hereby unanimously support the Pantex Plant in Texas as the Department of Energy's location for the Pit Disassembly and Conversion Facility provided such missions are done in a safe and environmentally-friendly manner.

As REALTORS®, we believe the Pantex Plant is the preferred site for the Pit Disassembly and Conversion Facility in view of the following facts:

- (1) The primary mission of the Pantex plant is to take apart nuclear weapons as part of the United States' obligations under the START treaties that have been signed with Russia. It makes sense to finish the disarmament mission by converting the pits at Pantex which would require no off-site shipment of the pits, which would then decrease the risk of classified weapons components falling into unfriendly hands.
- (2) For nearly half a century, the employees of Mason & Hanger Corporation have handled and worked with pits without ever exposing the environment or the residents of the Texas Panhandle to any contamination from plutonium. To further enhance employee and public safety, Mason & Hanger has implemented a Voluntary Protection Program and employees at Pantex have full-time union safety officers to whom they can raise safety concerns.
- (3) The security force at Pantex has successfully guarded highly classified weapons components since 1951. Recently, the Pantex guard force was rated the highest in the DOE complex. DOE should protect the highly classified pits at the facility with the best guard force, which is Pantex.
- (4) And finally, repeated public opinion polling has shown support for the Pantex Plant to be in the 80% range among residents of Carson, Potter and Randall Counties. In addition, Pantex has outstanding support from the elected officials representing local governments in the area around the facility and Pantex also enjoys unanimous support from elected officials representing the area in the Texas House and Senate and the United States House and Senate.

The Pantex Plant has played an invaluable role in the United States' history and should be the Department of Energy's location for the Pit Disassembly and Conversion facility.

Approved by the Board of Directors on the 16th day of July 1998,

Randy Jeffers

RANDY JEFFERS, CRB, GRI - PRESIDENT



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TXD51

TXD51-1

Alternatives

DOE acknowledges the commentor's support for siting the pit conversion facility at Pantex. Analyses in Chapter 4 of Volume I indicate that impacts of operating the pit conversion facility on health, safety, and the environment at Pantex would likely be minor. Decisions on the surplus plutonium disposition program at Pantex will be based on environmental analyses (including analyses of transportation risks), technical and cost reports, national policy and nonproliferation considerations, and public input. DOE will announce its decisions regarding facility siting and approach to surplus plutonium disposition in the SPD EIS ROD.

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**AMARILLO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
DAVID WILKS ET AL.
PAGE 1 OF 1**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE AMARILLO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS IN SUPPORT OF
PANTEX**

WHEREAS, the Pantex plant currently employs 2869 Amarillo-area residents and puts over \$200 million directly into our area, and is responsible for about one out of every ten Amarillo-area jobs

WHEREAS, Pantex has outstanding support from the residents in the area. Pantex enjoys strong support from local and state elected officials and the Texas congressional delegation. Pantex shows 80% support among area residents.

WHEREAS, Pantex employees have more experience in handling plutonium pits than any other site in the nuclear weapons complex.

WHEREAS, Pantex requires no off-site shipment of pits, decreasing the risk of classified weapons parts falling into unfriendly hands.

WHEREAS, Pantex has more than adequate storage space for converting plutonium.

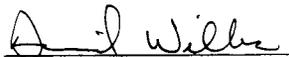
WHEREAS, Pantex guard force is the highest rated in the nuclear weapons complex. Pantex has an outstanding safety record. The employees at Pantex have full-time union safety officers to whom they can raise safety concerns, and Mason & Hanger Corporation has implemented a Voluntary Protection Program to further enhance employee and public safety.

WHEREAS, Pantex employees have safely handled, worked with, and stored pits. The Savannah River Site has a history of radioactive contamination of the environment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Amarillo Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors supports the disassembly and conversion of nuclear weapons plutonium components (pits) program to be assigned to the Pantex plant.

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED that the Amarillo Chamber of Commerce encourages the Texas Congressional Delegation to continue to support and work toward this goal.

ADOPTED this 10th day of August, 1998


David Wilks, Chairman of the Board


Gary Molberg, President & CEO

TXD50

TXD50-1

Alternatives

DOE acknowledges the commentors' support for siting the pit conversion facility at Pantex. Analyses in Chapter 4 of Volume I indicate that impacts of operating the pit conversion facility on health, safety, and the environment at Pantex would likely be minor. Decisions on the surplus plutonium disposition program at Pantex will be based on environmental analyses (including analyses of transportation risks), technical and cost reports, national policy and nonproliferation considerations, and public input. DOE will announce its decisions regarding facility siting and approach to surplus plutonium disposition in the SPD EIS ROD.

AMARILLO COLLEGE
M. KAREN RUDDY
PAGE 1 OF 2

To: U.S. Department of Energy
From: Dr. M. Karen Ruddy, Director of the Electronic Resource Library (ERL) Project
 at Amarillo College found at <http://plutonium-erl.actx.edu>
Date: August 27, 1998
RE: Comments on the Pantex Missions

Dear Sir or Madam:

I believe that this country does indeed face a clear and present danger in the fact that plutonium disposition and waste materials in our environment need to be addressed. The issues need to be based on sound and reliable scientific and technical research (an exemplary effort in Amarillo is the work being carried on through the Amarillo National Resource Center for Plutonium).

I commend the DOE for the policy of openness over the last five or six years. I deal with the plutonium literature daily in my role as Director of the Electronic Resource Library - a library dedicated to the scientific and technical study of plutonium - use, disposition, storage, transportation, health policy and history, and I know that most of the environmental problems in regard to the USDOE policies have come about because of the Cold War legacy.

I also believe that the future energy source in the world is going to be nuclear and believe any decisions made today must keep that reality in mind. Ralph Nader used to be right, now he is old and confused.

I deplore the representation in the Amarillo meetings of the "left-over-hippies" who have no right to represent the majority of the citizens in Amarillo and the Panhandle of Texas. I think it is immoral for the areas that the government has poured money into over the years (Yucca Mt. in Nevada for example) to now be against the deployment of these areas to serve their purpose. I hope you disregard their comments and follow scientific and technical research to make your decisions.

Mr. Richardson was here in Amarillo yesterday and I wish I could have met him. I am comforted that he is the new Secretary of Energy and believe he will make the hard decisions for the good of all.

We (the Electronic Resource Library (ERL)) are collaborating with OSTI to digitize paper documents that they provide to us and we hope to acquire a microfiche scanning machine through a grant to the IMLS program in the Executive Office. We will be able to then digitize the DOE OSTI microfiche collections and retrieve documents stored only on that media.

We serve Pantex, Amarillo College, the Amarillo and Panhandle community and the researchers and scientists at UT, A&M and Texas Tech through the ERL services and resources and are proud to be part of the great effort to help our country as Pantex has done in the past.

FD151

FD151-1

Alternatives

DOE acknowledges the commentor's support of DOE and its surplus plutonium disposition program.

We collaborate with Los Alamos, with the Lovelace Institute, with the FOIA program, the DOE Reading Room program (interactively with the one here at Amarillo College) and with the WIPP site through other regional community colleges (i.e. New Mexico Junior College in Hobbs, NM) to obtain plutonium-related documents and joint grant proposals such as the IMLS (Institute of Museums and Library Services).

I believe that additional missions should come to Pantex for the following reasons:

1. You have incredible community support in Amarillo and surrounding areas.
2. The workforce is highly skilled in this area due to the past and present programs at Amarillo College (attested to by the recent announcement that Bell Helicopter is going to build their new aircraft here in Amarillo).
3. The pits are already here and as I understand the ARIES (Advanced Recovery and Integrated Extraction System) process, it includes "nuclear weapons dismantlement, reduction, and processing with minimal additions to the nuclear waste stream." This quote comes from a document found in the Electronic Resource Library collection.
4. The Pantex solution would meet the SPD-EIS mission of reducing the threat of nuclear weapons and the proliferation threat by avoiding transportation of pits in their "weapons-ready" form.
5. Spreading the dis-assembly program around (i.e. So. Carolina, Texas, New Mexico) would garner more support for your ultimate programs of storage and disposition.
6. Cost is turning out to be a non discriminating factor in the location decision.
7. The Amarillo National Resource Center for Plutonium (funds the ERL project through competitive grants) is a strategic social, political, educational, and research variable in this area - as in just three short years, the ANRCP has helped "thinking and reasoning" people in this area sort through the mire and confusion of exponentially exploding information to get to the facts, be more assured and make better decisions.
8. The Texas Energy Conservation program environmentally monitors the Pantex operation and helps ensure a safe and environmentally sound operation.
9. The safety and security record of Pantex.
10. Most important, I believe we must ACT SOON on plutonium disposition with all the ramifications in Russia and the rest of the world - trusting that you in the "drivers seat" of this great mission have secured our national future and act with the knowledge that plutonium must indeed be turned into plowshares for "planting and harvesting" of the energy needs of the future.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on this potential program. We love our country, support our government and want to work toward world peace and prosperity.

Sincerely,
M. Karen Ruddy, Ph.D.
Director, Electronic Resource Library Project at Amarillo College
Amarillo College
Amarillo, TX 79189
(806) 371-5148 office
e-mail: mkruddy@actx.edu

FD151

FD151-2

Alternatives

DOE acknowledges the commentor's support of expanded missions at Pantex. Decisions on the surplus plutonium disposition program at Pantex will be based on environmental analyses (including analyses of transportation risks), technical and cost reports, national policy and nonproliferation considerations, and public input. DOE will announce its decisions regarding facility siting and approach to surplus plutonium disposition in the SPDEIS ROD.

Amarillo Economic Development Corporation

Comments of Debra Ballou Regarding the DOE Surplus Plutonium Disposition Draft Environmental Impact Statement

My concern today is with our area's future. While I am proud of our area's accomplishments in the field of economic development, I am still concerned with the long-term future of Pantex. Pantex is such a large force in our local economy that negative impacts from Pantex can essentially take away the gains we may make in other areas.

In essence, if the AEDC brings a new employer to town it may be like taking a step forward. However, if Pantex fails to grow, it may be like taking two steps backward. One step forward and two steps backward is no way to get where you want to go.

Pantex has been a great employer in the Texas panhandle for many years. The spin off of Pantex dollars in the local economy provides employment opportunities in all sectors of the economy. The jobs at Pantex and the skilled service jobs that result in the economy are the kind of opportunities that keep people who are raised in Amarillo from taking their skills to larger metro areas where jobs are abundant. We cannot afford to take two steps back for every one forward.

Pantex has operated safely for many years, and its excellent track record should weigh heavily in the decision making on the location for plutonium disposition missions. This area, and its elected officials at all levels, support Pantex overwhelmingly. Considering this area's strong support for Pantex and the good fit between these missions and Pantex's current mission, I strongly urge the Secretary of Energy to choose Pantex for Pit Disassembly and Conversion and MOX Fuel Manufacturing.

Debra Ballou
Secretary, Board of Directors
Amarillo Economic Development Corporation
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600 S. Tyler Street
Amarillo, TX 79101
(806) 379-6411

TXD53

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2

TXD53-1

Other

DOE acknowledges the commentor's support of expanded missions at Pantex. Decisions on the surplus plutonium disposition program at Pantex will be based on environmental analyses, technical and cost reports, national policy and nonproliferation considerations, and public input.

TXD53-2

Alternatives

DOE acknowledges the commentor's support for siting the pit conversion and MOX facilities at Pantex. Decisions on the surplus plutonium disposition program at Pantex will be based on environmental analyses, technical and cost reports, national policy and nonproliferation considerations, and public input. DOE will announce its decisions regarding facility siting and approach to surplus plutonium disposition in the SPD EIS ROD.

Amarillo Economic Development Corporation

Comments of Michael Bourn Regarding the DOE Surplus Plutonium Disposition Draft Environmental Impact Statement

The Amarillo Economic Development Corporation is dedicated to expanding and diversifying the economy in the Amarillo area. We focus on basic employers, that is employers who derive their income from outside of our economic region. We have assisted many local basic employers and we continue to recruit new basic employers to our community. Because of our extensive work with hundreds of existing businesses and those that have considered Amarillo over the past eight years, we have gathered extensive, detailed knowledge of our area's business climate.

Beyond the quantitative measures such as our very low utility costs, affordable and available labor, and low cost of living lies the real key to this region's success – we have a truly outstanding workforce. As mentioned, the quality of our workforce transcends the quantitatively measurable. Nevertheless, our quality workforce is very real. Recently, Bell Helicopter announced plans to locate the assembly plant for the V-22 Osprey Tiltrotor Aircraft in Amarillo. In announcing that decision, one of the key factors mentioned was the great skill of our workforce. But Bell did not make that decision just based on our word, they had twenty years' experience with a facility in Amarillo from the late 1960s to the late 1980s.

The Department of Energy should likewise recognize the skill of Amarillo's workforce when choosing its location for plutonium disposition missions. And the disassembly of plutonium pits should rightfully be seen as a logical extension of the weapons disassembly work already performed by the highly skilled workers at Pantex. The MOX mission also makes sense to be performed within the high security areas at Pantex.

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TXD30

TXD30-1

Alternatives

DOE acknowledges the commentor's support for siting the pit conversion and MOX facilities at Pantex. Decisions on the surplus plutonium disposition program at Pantex will be based on environmental analyses, technical and cost reports, national policy and nonproliferation considerations, and public input. DOE will announce its decisions regarding facility siting and approach to surplus plutonium disposition in the SPD EIS ROD.

AMARILLO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
MICHAEL R. BOURN
PAGE 2 OF 2

Mr. Michael R. Bourn
Page 2

The controversial aspect of using plutonium as a fuel should also be considered. As we look at our neighbors to the west who are trying to open the WIPP site, we can see that political controversy can cause enormous delays in scientifically sound projects. While I believe the MOX program to be technically sound and the best policy for the United States, I also believe that the current timetable for implementation of MOX manufacturing is not realistic. The program could be delayed for years over political controversy regarding our nation's policy toward nuclear energy.

Given the likelihood of delays in the MOX program, the DOE should take an affirmative step in demilitarizing its surplus weapons components by putting the Pit Disassembly and Conversion Facility into operation as quickly as can safely be done. This work can be done best, and with the least likelihood of political delays, at the Pantex Plant. I therefore urge the Secretary of Energy to name Pantex as the sole preferred alternative for Pit Disassembly and Conversion. Furthermore, I would ask that Secretary Richardson to re-examine the decision made by Secretary Peña to locate the MOX facility at the Savannah River Site. In light of the controversy likely to surround the MOX program, a final decision on site location for that facility should be made after the site for the pit disassembly mission has already been determined.

Thank you for the chance to make comments on this very important issue.

Michael R. Bourn
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TXD30

TXD30-2

DOE Policy

DOE acknowledges the commentor's concern over potential controversy surrounding MOX fuel fabrication. The goal of the surplus plutonium disposition program is to reduce the threat of nuclear weapons proliferation worldwide by conducting disposition of surplus plutonium in the United States in an environmentally safe and timely manner. Converting the surplus plutonium into MOX fuel and using it in domestic, commercial reactors is an effective way to accomplish this.

Further, selection of the disposition technology (immobilization or MOX approach) should not impact the pace of pit declassification. Pit declassification would likely depend on the agreements reached with Russia. In late July 1998, Vice President Gore and Russian Prime Minister Sergei Kiriyenko signed a 5-year agreement to provide the scientific and technical basis for decisions concerning how surplus plutonium will be managed. This agreement enables the two countries to explore mutually acceptable strategies for safeguarding and dispositioning surplus plutonium.

As indicated in the revised Section 1.6, SRS is preferred for the proposed surplus plutonium disposition facilities because the site has extensive experience with plutonium processing, and these facilities complement existing missions and take advantage of existing infrastructure.

Amarillo Economic Development Corporation

Comments of Gilbert Guzman Regarding the DOE Surplus Plutonium Disposition Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Thank you for the chance to express the views of the Amarillo Economic Development Corporation regarding the surplus plutonium missions being considered for Pantex. The Amarillo Economic Development Corporation (AEDC) serves as the development arm of the City of Amarillo local government. The Corporation is funded by a half-cent sales tax and its board is appointed by the elected Mayor and City Commissioners of the City of Amarillo. As a public corporation our activities are carried out with the public interest first and foremost in mind.

Since the early part of this decade, the AEDC has striven to bring new work to the Pantex Plant in order to enhance the manufacturing base of our community. When measured by payroll and economic impact, Pantex is the largest manufacturer in a region comprised of over 50 counties in the Texas panhandle and south plains. Our support for new missions at Pantex is contingent on those missions being done in a manner that does not endanger human health or the environment.

The AEDC strongly supports the selection of Pantex as the site for the Pit Disassembly and Conversion Facility and MOX fuel manufacturing mission. These new missions will provide jobs for Pantex employees who might otherwise not have jobs as the disassembly work the plant now performs winds down. Pantex has been an important part of this community for over 50 years. We hope that with the addition of plutonium disposition missions, Pantex continues to be a major economic presence in this area for the next 50 years.

Gilbert Guzman
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TXD31

TXD31-1

Alternatives

DOE acknowledges the commentor's support for siting the pit conversion and MOX facilities at Pantex. Analyses in Chapter 4 of Volume I indicate that impacts of operating these facilities on health, safety, and the environment at Pantex would likely be minor. Decisions on the surplus plutonium disposition program at Pantex will be based on environmental analyses, technical and cost reports, national policy and nonproliferation considerations, and public input. DOE will announce its decisions regarding facility siting and approach to surplus plutonium disposition in the SPD EIS ROD.

AMARILLO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
GLENN McMENNAMY
PAGE 1 OF 2

Amarillo Economic Development Corporation

Comments of Glenn McMennamy Regarding the DOE Surplus Plutonium Disposition Draft Environmental Impact Statement

The people of the Texas panhandle are proud of the Pantex plant. They support the current plant operations and the expansion of the activities at Pantex. The payroll of Pantex pours hundreds of millions of dollars into the regional economy. All told, Pantex is responsible for about one out of every 10 jobs in the Amarillo metro area.

Today, you will hear from many people who come from different perspectives. Let me remind you of the overwhelming support the Department of Energy has in this area. Repeated polling has shown more than 80% of the residents of the area support Pantex. Our elected officials at the local, state and national level all support Pantex. Pantex is supported by Republicans, Democrats, Labor and Business. All demographic groups in our area support Pantex. I have been involved in local, state and national politics for many years and few of the candidates or issues with which I have dealt have ever had the broad support that Pantex enjoys.

Strong support is important for the DOE. In years past, the pressures of the Cold War made big budgets standard for the Department. In the post-Cold War era, the DOE budget receives an enormous amount of scrutiny. Different sites in the nuclear weapons complex have been reduced to fighting one another for new work and even for funding for the cleanup of heavily contaminated sites in Idaho, Colorado, Washington, and South Carolina. With all this budgetary scrutiny the DOE should seek the help of its political friends.

Glenn McMennamy
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TXD33

TXD33-1

Alternatives

DOE acknowledges the commentor's support for siting the proposed surplus plutonium disposition facilities at Pantex, as well as the observations regarding broad political and community support. Decisions on the surplus plutonium disposition program at Pantex will be based on environmental analyses, technical and cost reports, national policy and nonproliferation considerations, and public input. DOE will announce its decisions regarding facility siting and approach to surplus plutonium disposition in the SPD EIS ROD.

AMARILLO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
GLENN McMENNAMY
PAGE 2 OF 2

Mr. Glenn McMennamy
Page 2

The Texas congressional delegation overwhelmingly supports the expansion of Pantex. The Governor and Lt. Governor of Texas support the expansion of Pantex. The AFL-CIO supports the expansion of Pantex.

These are very important constituencies to the Department of Energy. Their will should be carefully considered when deciding where to locate new missions. We know this work will be done in a safe manner. We know we are the right place to perform these missions. We will be very disappointed if the DOE fails to name Pantex as the site for this new work. The Texas congressional delegation will also be very disappointed if Pantex is not selected. I sincerely hope the DOE makes the right choice and decides to locate these new missions in Texas.

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TXD33

Amarillo Economic Development Corporation

Comments of George Raffkind Regarding the DOE Surplus Plutonium Disposition Draft Environmental Impact Statement

I appreciate the chance to speak with you today about the draft Environmental Impact Statement on Surplus Plutonium Disposition. The Amarillo Economic Development Corporation (AEDC) has worked for years to try to bring new work to Pantex. We have always insisted, and continue to insist, that new work coming to Pantex be environmentally sound and a good "fit" with the existing missions. The Pit Disassembly and Conversion and MOX fuel missions meet both those criteria. Therefore, I strongly encourage the Secretary of Energy to name Pantex as the sole preferred alternative for these plutonium disposition missions.

As a retailer in Amarillo, I understand the profound impact of agricultural income on the entire economy of this region. While I am not directly involved in agriculture, I know that my business' sales decline when times are hard for farmers and ranchers. I also know that for more than half-a-century, the presence of Pantex in this area has never led to reduced crop yields or reduced prices for commodity crops or livestock. The economy of all of West Texas is presently feeling the effects of drought and the subsequent decrease in farm and ranch income. Sales growth in the retail sector in Amarillo and surrounding towns has slowed. Even though the airlines are carrying record loads on a national basis, airline loads are down in Amarillo, Lubbock, and Midland. We all recognize that the rural and urban economies of this area are wholly and inextricably linked.

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George Raffkind
Member, Board of Directors
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TXD32

TXD32-1

Alternatives

DOE acknowledges the commentor's support for siting the pit conversion and MOX facilities at Pantex. Analyses in Chapter 4 of Volume I indicate that impacts of operating these facilities on health, safety, and the environment at Pantex would likely be minor. Decisions on the surplus plutonium disposition program at Pantex will be based on environmental analyses, technical and cost reports, national policy and nonproliferation considerations, and public input. DOE will announce its decisions regarding facility siting and approach to surplus plutonium disposition in the SPD EIS ROD.

**AMARILLO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
GEORGE RAFFKIND
PAGE 2 OF 2**

Mr. George Raffkind
Page 2

The proposed new missions at Pantex will lead to economic growth in our area, without harming agriculture. I would not support a project that negatively impacts agriculture, because my own livelihood is affected by the condition of the agricultural sector of the economy. Moreover, the AEDC receives a great deal of sales tax revenue from persons who live in rural areas and shop in Amarillo. We have no intention of growing one part of the economy at the expense of another.

I hope that the Secretary of Energy will keep in mind that the vast majority of the people in Carson, Potter and Randall Counties support agriculture and the Pantex Plant. Most people in this area recognize that both are essential to the well-being of our economy. I urge the Secretary to name Pantex as the sole preferred alternative for Pit Disassembly and Conversion and MOX Fuel Manufacturing.

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George Raffkind
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TXD32

Remarks

For DOE Hearings on Pantex
 August 11, 1998, Amarillo, Texas
 By Gareth von Netzer
 Publisher, Amarillo Globe-News

Thank you for allowing me to present these remarks at today's hearing.

My comments are very brief.

They focus on the practical and cost-effective reasons the Pantex Plant should be awarded the mission of disassembly and conversion of nuclear weapons plutonium pits.

First, the pits already are securely stored at the Pantex Plant. The plant's security force is one of the finest paramilitary forces in the world, and it's the highest rated among all the DOE complex facility forces.

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TXD54

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Alternatives

DOE acknowledges the commentor's support for siting the pit conversion facility at Pantex. Decisions on the surplus plutonium disposition program at Pantex will be based on environmental analyses, technical and cost reports, national policy and nonproliferation considerations, and public input. DOE will announce its decisions regarding facility siting and approach to surplus plutonium disposition in the SPD EIS ROD.

Page Two

Why would the DOE even consider the risks and added expense of transporting plutonium pits to another site?

Second, the Pantex Plant already has the trained and highly qualified workforce to do the disassembly work. Workers at another site would have to be trained and would lack the background available already at the Pantex Plant.

Third, the Pantex plant's track record with handling and storing plutonium pits is proven, over many years, and without incident. In fact, the Pantex Plant has the finest safety and environmental record of all the major DOE sites in the nuclear weapons complex.

Fourth, consider the region's and city's strong support for the Pantex Plant, what it does and how it does

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TXD54

Page Three

it. Polls have shown for many years that more than 8 of 10 people strongly support the Pantex Plant and its role in our national defense.

These are just some of the reasons why the DOE should locate the disassembly mission at Pantex.

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TXD54

AMARILLO HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
GILBERT GUZMAN ET AL.
PAGE 1 OF 1



A RESOLUTION OF THE AMARILLO HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS IN SUPPORT OF
PANTEX

WHEREAS, the Pantex plant currently employs 2869 Amarillo-area residents and puts \$200 million directly into our area, and is responsible for about one out of every ten Amarillo area jobs.

WHEREAS, the Pantex plant consistently employs Amarillo-area Hispanics at all levels, and consistently promotes minority business procurement opportunities.

WHEREAS, Pantex employees have more experience in handling plutonium pits than any other site in the complex.

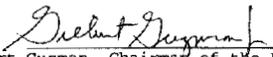
WHEREAS, Pantex has more than adequate storage space for converting plutonium.

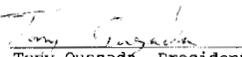
WHEREAS, the Pantex guard force is the highest rated in the DOE complex. Pantex has an outstanding safety record. The employees at Pantex have full-time union safety officers to whom they can raise safety concerns, Mason & Hanger Corporation has implemented a Voluntary Protection Program to further enhance employee and public safety.

WHEREAS, Pantex employees have safely handled, worked with, and stored pits. The Savannah River Site has a history of radioactive contamination of the environment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Amarillo Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors support the disassembly and conversion of nuclear weapons plutonium components (pits) program to be assigned to the Pantex plant.

ADOPTED this 11 day of August, 1998


Gilbert Guzman, Chairman of the Board


Tony Quezada, President

TXD36

TXD36-1

Alternatives

DOE acknowledges the commentors' support for siting the pit conversion facility at Pantex. Analyses in Chapter 4 of Volume I indicate that impacts of operating the pit conversion facility on health, safety, and the environment at Pantex would likely be minor. Decisions on the surplus plutonium disposition program at Pantex will be based on environmental analyses, technical and cost reports, national policy and nonproliferation considerations, and public input. DOE will announce its decisions regarding facility siting and approach to surplus plutonium disposition in the SPD EIS ROD.

AMARILLO NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER FOR PLUTONIUM
RICHARD HARTLEY
PAGE 1 OF 1



Amarillo National Resource Center for Plutonium
A Highest Education Consortium of The Texas A&M University System, Texas Tech University, and The University of Texas System

Comments of Richard Hartley, Ph.D., Technical Director of the Amarillo National Resource Center for Plutonium, August 11, 1998, at the Amarillo, Texas Public Meeting to discuss the Surplus Plutonium Disposition Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

It is the Center's mission to provide objective technical advice to the elected officials, regulators, and citizens of Texas on missions, like pit conversion and MOX, that potentially could come to Pantex. This independent technical advice is obtained by using academic experts from the consortium universities in Texas, (A&M, UT, TTU). We also work closely with the agricultural community through the Agriculture Research & Ag Extension Service here in the Panhandle of Texas.

One project the Center was asked to perform by the governor's office ^{was to provide} ~~presented~~ an independent safety and health analysis of both the plutonium conversion mission and MOX at Pantex and a review of the EIS on behalf of the state of Texas. Our technical team included:

- Dr. Ian Hamilton, Texas A&M University, certified health physicist
- Dr. Randy Charbeneau, University of Texas, professional environmental engineer
- Dr. John Sweeten, agricultural engineer with Ag Extension Service
- Dr. Bobby Stewart, West Texas A&M University, agricultural scientist
- Dr. Jim Rock, Texas A&M, certified industrial hygienists
- Dr. Paul Vaughn, Texas Tech University, agricultural communications specialist
- Dr. James R. Clark, West Texas A&M, Dryland Wheat Institute
- Dr. Nolan Clark, Director, USDA Lab in Bushland, Texas

The results of that independent study were provided to elected officials, Texas regulators, and citizens of Amarillo in Nov. of 1997. The study was conducted by expert professional environmental engineers, certified health physicists, certified industrial hygienists, and agricultural engineers and scientists. The conclusion of that study was that the risks associated with the new missions is comparable to the risk of current operations at Pantex and there are no impacts on water resources, water quality, no impact on soil or air resource.

We were also asked by the governor's office to have the university principal investigators of that study review the draft Surplus Plutonium Disposition Environmental Impact Statement. As in the risk characterization effort presented in November, the researchers find that there are no significant environmental or safety impacts associated with the pit disassembly conversion or MOX mission coming to Pantex.

The ANRCP consortium represents substantial research capabilities that include: 1) 29 Campuses with 24,276 faculty, 259,534 students, and a \$6.5 B combined budget, 2) academic credibility and independent verification, and 3) education based program that supports the Secretary of Energy's education initiative.

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TXD43

TXD43-1

Alternatives

DOE acknowledges the findings of the ANRCP's study in support of pit disassembly and conversion and MOX fuel fabrication at Pantex. Decisions on the surplus plutonium disposition program at Pantex will be based on environmental analyses, technical and cost reports, national policy and nonproliferation considerations, and public input.

**Comments on the
Surplus Plutonium Disposition Draft Environmental Impact Statement**

By

**K. L. Peddicord
Amarillo National Resource Center for Plutonium**

**Presented at the SPDEIS Hearing
Amarillo, Texas
August 11, 1998**

A key element in the surplus plutonium disposition mission will be provisions to allow for either bilateral inspections or multilateral inspection of excess weapons material. These functions contribute to important U.S. policy issues on transparency and openness relating to the disposition of surplus weapons materials both in the United States and the Russian Federation. Bilateral inspection with Russia will be important to develop a mutual level of confidence with the Russians for the entire disposition effort. Such bilateral inspection agreements will also provide confirmation to the U.S. through our inspection of Russian facilities that their efforts are proceeding accordingly. Likewise, potential multilateral inspection under the auspices of the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, Austria, will give assurances to the global community of U.S. leadership in this key endeavor.

While the inspection function will be an ancillary enterprise, it also will have some environmental impact. Accommodations must be made for the facilities, equipment and individuals performing this role. These requirements can presumably be handled in a straightforward way with minimal environmental disruption.

In terms of the inspection function and its relation to the Pit Disassembly and Conversion Facility (PDCF), the input material to the PDCF will be in forms which are classified. However, the output material will be either converted to a metal "hockey puck" or plutonium oxide powder. Subsequent storage of this material will not be of a classified nature and will be subject to international inspection. It is noted that by locating the PDC Facility at the Pantex Plant, the necessary Perimeter Inspection, Detection and Alarm System (PIDAS) is in place to guarantee the security of weapons grade material. Reconfiguration of the existing areas at Pantex could be done in a straightforward way to allow for the inspection requirements while assuring that classified information and material is not compromised.

TXD48

TXD48-1

Nonproliferation

DOE acknowledges the commentator's support for siting the pit conversion facility at Pantex. Once the United States and Russia complete an agreement providing the basis for exchanging classified nuclear information, the procedures to be used for inspection of pits in storage could potentially be adapted to contribute to bilateral monitoring of the pit conversion facility. International monitoring and inspection of the unclassified plutonium would also allow the United States and Russia to demonstrate to each other and to the international community that disposition was being carried out under stringent nonproliferation controls, and that the excess plutonium was not being diverted for reuse in weapons. Accommodation for international inspection of the unclassified material was incorporated in the design of the pit conversion facility, as shown in Figure 2-7. The MOX facility would be a separate function and would only process unclassified materials. Accommodation for international inspection was incorporated in the design of the facility, as shown in Figure 2-14. Decisions on the surplus plutonium disposition program at Pantex will be based on environmental analyses, technical and cost reports, national policy and nonproliferation considerations, and public input. DOE will announce its decisions regarding facility siting and approach to surplus plutonium disposition in the SPD EIS ROD.

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AMARILLO NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER FOR PLUTONIUM
K. L. PEDDICORD
PAGE 2 OF 2

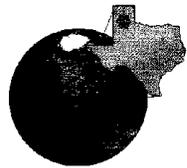
A second aspect of the inspection requirements is also worth noting. As mentioned above, it is the material produced by the PDCF which will be subject to inspection. This precludes the possibility, which has been suggested elsewhere, that a fully integrated facility might be used which will have weapons pits as the input and MOX fuel as the output. Such a facility would not allow for the inspection of the product of the pit disassembly and conversion steps. If it were to be proposed at a Russian installation, presumably such a fully integrated approach with restrictions for the inspection of unclassified material would not be acceptable to the United States. We would want to be able to assure that the MOX fuel coming out was the result of the pits going in. As a result, separation of the pit conversion function from the MOX fuel fabrication will be necessary.

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The Pantex Plant provides the opportunity for a facility for pit disassembly and conversion which meets, in a straightforward way, the requirements for key bilateral and multilateral inspection while minimizing the number of steps for the handling of sensitive weapons components. The selection of Pantex for the PDC Facility should assure expediency in carrying out U.S. and international nonproliferation goals. Bilateral and IAEA requirements could be more easily facilitated at Pantex thereby implementing pit disassembly and conversion more quickly, entering into an agreement to reach this same result with the Russians, and achieving the critical goal of timeliness which is a key factor in the surplus plutonium disposition mission.

TXD48

AMARILLO NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER FOR PLUTONIUM
ANGELA L. WOODS
PAGE 1 OF 1



Amarillo National Resource Center for Plutonium
A High Education Consortium of The Texas A&M University System, Texas Tech University, and The University of Texas System

September 8, 1998

Mr. Bert Stevenson
NEPA Compliance Officer
US Department of Energy
PO Box 23786
Washington, DC 20026-3786

Dear Mr. Stevenson:

The Center is pleased to publish in its Center Report Series ANRCP-1998-11, "Routing of Radioactive Shipments With Time-Varying Costs and Curfews," by Laurie A. Bowler and Dr. Hani S. Mahmassani. This is key research that contains vital information for a key audience, and is the type of research the Center supports. | 1

Please do not hesitate to contact us if any further information from the Center would be helpful.

Sincerely,

Angela L. Woods
Technical Editor

Enclosure

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MD175

MD175-1

Transportation

DOE appreciates publication of the referenced report by ANRCP.

ANDREW, MICHAEL
PAGE 1 OF 1

Michael Andrew
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Amarillo, TX 79109

Ph: 806-359-6709
E-Mail: mandrew@arr.net

Title: Year 2000 considerations for the study.

As a concerned taxpayer and one knowledgeable about the Year 2000 crisis I am concerned with the report that lists Pantex and the Savannah River Sites as "equally preferred sites" for the DOE's Pit Disassembly and Conversion Facility.

As a proponent of Pantex and a resident of Amarillo I have seen the proactive approach Pantex has had on environmental impacts and just as critical the appropriate use of our tax dollars. I can not say the same for the Savannah River Site. Specifically I would like to cite two instances of many that drive home my point.

First, Savannah River was recently noted in several national Federal Computing publications as having abandoned a multi million dollar project to modernize their computer systems after spending in excess of \$10 million on the effort. This upgrade was also to provide replacements for a number of systems that will not withstand the Year 2000, which is a little more than a year away.

Second, Savannah River was noted as having major deficiencies meeting dates in several of their systems including the Defense Waste Processing Control Systems. This prompted a special write-up in a recent quarterly report to the Office of Management and Budget from the DOD, noting "the CIO determined that these justifications did not contain compelling reasons for granting exceptions." Savannah Rivers action in part caused a funding restriction for the Environmental Management branch of DOE imposed by OMB to remain in effect.

In summary I do not believe both are "equally" prepared to conduct work on January 1, 2000 much less conduct it safely and efficiently. Recognizing the importance on microprocessors in todays manufacturing processes and the unpredictable effects of ignoring Year 2000 problems I believe that if further evaluations were conducted into the readiness of each facility for the coming millennium that Pantex would be the clear choice.

Respectfully,
Michael Andrew

FD110

FD110-1

Other

DOE acknowledges the commentor's support for siting the pit conversion facility at Pantex. DOE is working diligently to correct the Y2K problems in all of its computer systems and will not operate any facilities subject to such problems. Construction of the pit conversion facility is scheduled to begin in 2001, and operations are scheduled to begin in 2004; therefore, the computer systems for the new facilities would not be affected by the Y2K problem.

As indicated in the revised Section 1.6, SRS is preferred for the proposed facilities because the site has extensive experience with plutonium processing, and these facilities complement existing missions and take advantage of existing infrastructure. Decisions on the surplus plutonium disposition program at Pantex will be based on environmental analyses, technical and cost reports, national policy and nonproliferation considerations, and public input. DOE will announce its decisions regarding facility siting and approach to surplus plutonium disposition in the SPD EIS ROD.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	YES!	Keep Texas Panhandle water, air, and soil safe from radioactive pollutants	1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO!	To any plutonium processing in the Texas Panhandle	2
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	YES!	To minimal handling and processing of plutonium and other nuclear materials	3
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO!	To converting military plutonium for use in mixed oxide (MOX) fuel	4
Signed: <i>Charge the companies that made the profit for the clean up. Too many cooks spoil the brew.</i>			5

CD1328

CD1328-1

Alternatives

Sections 4.17 and 4.26.3 describe the potential effects of the maximum impact alternative on air quality, water resources, and soil. These analyses indicate that the impacts of construction and normal operation of the pit conversion and MOX facilities on air, water, and soil at Pantex would likely be minor.

CD1328-2

Alternatives

DOE acknowledges the commentor's opposition to the surplus plutonium disposition program at Pantex. Decisions on the surplus plutonium disposition program at Pantex will be based on environmental analyses, technical and cost reports, national policy and nonproliferation considerations, and public input.

CD1328-3

DOE Policy

The goal of the surplus plutonium disposition program is to reduce the threat of nuclear weapons proliferation worldwide by conducting disposition of surplus plutonium in the United States in an environmentally safe and timely manner. DOE is committed to public and worker safety during the construction, operation, and deactivation of the proposed surplus plutonium disposition facilities, and would implement appropriate controls and procedures to ensure compliance with all applicable Federal, State, and local laws, rules, regulations, and requirements.

CD1328-4

MOX Approach

DOE acknowledges the commentor's opposition to the MOX approach to surplus plutonium disposition. Pursuing both immobilization and MOX fuel fabrication provides the United States important insurance against potential disadvantages of implementing either approach by itself. The hybrid approach also provides the best opportunity for U.S. leadership in working with Russia to implement similar options for reducing Russia's excess plutonium in parallel. Further, it sends the strongest possible signal to the world of U.S. determination to reduce stockpiles of surplus plutonium as quickly as possible and in a manner that would make it technically difficult to use the plutonium in nuclear weapons again.

CD1328-5**Cost**

DOE conducted a competitive procurement process to acquire MOX fuel fabrication and irradiation services. The selected team, DCS, would design, request a license, construct, operate, and deactivate the MOX facility as well as irradiate the MOX fuel in domestic, commercial reactors. However, these activities are subject to the completion of the NEPA process.

Although cost will be a factor in the decisionmaking process, this SPD EIS contains environmental impact data and does not address the costs associated with the various alternatives. A separate cost report, *Cost Analysis in Support of Site Selection for Surplus Weapons-Usable Plutonium Disposition* (DOE/MD-0009, July 1998), which analyzes the site-specific cost estimates for each alternative, was made available around the same time as the SPD Draft EIS. This report and the *Plutonium Disposition Life-Cycle Costs and Cost-Related Comment Resolution Document* (DOE/MD-0013, November 1999), which covers recent life-cycle cost analyses associated with the preferred alternative, are available on the MD Web site at <http://www.doe-md.com> and in the public reading rooms at the following locations: Hanford, INEEL, Pantex, SRS and Washington, D.C.

Yes, I think that the petroleum, the whatever it is, should be located at Pantex. Thank you.

1

PD013

PD013-1

Alternatives

DOE acknowledges the commentor's support for the surplus plutonium disposition program at Pantex. Decisions on the surplus plutonium disposition program at Pantex will be based on environmental analyses, technical and cost reports, national policy and nonproliferation considerations, and public input.

Yes, I think they need to get rid of Pantex. It's bad for our crops and bad for our drinking water. Thanks. | 1

PD019

PD019-1

Alternatives

DOE acknowledges the commentor's opposition to the continued operation of the Pantex Plant. It is inferred that this would include opposition to siting any of the proposed surplus plutonium disposition facilities at Pantex. The *Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Continued Operation of the Pantex Plant and Associated Storage of Nuclear Weapon Components* (DOE/EIS-0225, November 1996) was one of many references used during the development of this SPD EIS. Based on the information, analysis, and public comment contained in that EIS, DOE issued a ROD for the continued operation of Pantex. That EIS concluded that the continued operation of Pantex would have either minor or no impacts on the surrounding environment.

Yes, I just wanted to give my input on the deal that's going on | 1
about Pantex. And I'm all for it.

PD020

PD020-1

Alternatives

DOE acknowledges the commentor's support for the surplus plutonium disposition program at Pantex. Decisions on the surplus plutonium disposition program at Pantex will be based on environmental analyses, technical and cost reports, national policy and nonproliferation considerations, and public input.

I want to voice my opinion against Pantex. I think it is a dump about ready to explode and I think it is a hazard for the people that live in this area, not only for the people but for the cattle and the land. I think it needs to go, the sooner the better.

1

PD026

PD026-1

Other

DOE acknowledges the commentor's opposition to Pantex. The *Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Continued Operation of the Pantex Plant and Associated Storage of Nuclear Weapon Components* (DOE/EIS-0225, November 1996) was one of many references used during the development of this SPD EIS. That EIS concluded that the continued operation of Pantex would have either minor or no impacts on the surrounding environment. Based on the analysis and related public comment, DOE issued a ROD for the continued operation of Pantex.

Yes, I am an Amarillo resident since 1926 and I want to express my support for the Pantex and everything it has done and been in Amarillo. It has the best safety record of any company that's ever been here. I've toured the plant and enjoyed getting to see what we've heard about for many, many years. I also want to support the use of Amarillo facilities to do the plutonium research and the, something about making the MOX, what ever it is, the disassembly that doesn't make sense to ship it all across the country when it's already here, and you just have my family, all of us, our support and we're proud of you. Thank you for being here.

1

PD028

PD028-1

Alternatives

DOE acknowledges the commentor's support for siting the proposed surplus plutonium disposition facilities at Pantex. Decisions on the surplus plutonium disposition program at Pantex will be based on environmental analyses, technical and cost reports, national policy and nonproliferation considerations, and public input. DOE will announce its decisions regarding facility siting and approach to surplus plutonium disposition in the SPD EIS ROD.



United States
Department
of Energy

Comment Form

NAME: (Optional) Robert D Baker
ADDRESS: 104 Riveria Trail, Amarillo, Tx 79104
TELEPHONE: (806) 383-4502
E-MAIL: B.BAKER4927@AOL.com

It is my understanding that Savannah River has been announced by DOE to be the preferred location for the MOX fuel conversion site. Also that Savannah River and Pantex are equally preferred for the Pit Disassembly and conversion site. Neither site has experience with MOX fuel fabrication nor Pit Disassembly and conversion. However Pantex has years of experience with the pits during the weapon assembly-disassembly process and pit storage. The source material is primarily located at Pantex. The facilities for both the Pit Disassembly and MOX fuel conversion have to be constructed and brought into operation. Logistically it doesn't seem to be economical to ship the source material to Savannah River for either the Pit Disassembly or MOX fuel. Additionally when the fuel assemblies are fabricated they will have to be shipped around the country to the commercial reactors. Amarillo is centrally located and would seem to be the most economical site for these processes as well as the distribution point for the MOX fuel assemblies.

1

TXD25

TXD25-1

Alternatives

DOE acknowledges the commentor's support for siting the pit conversion and MOX facilities at Pantex. Potential impacts from intrasite transfer of pits would likely be minor if Pantex were chosen as the site for pit disassembly and conversion because pits are currently stored there. However, potential impacts from transportation of plutonium dioxide between the MOX and pit conversion facilities would be minimized if SRS were chosen because SRS is the preferred location for both facilities. Transportation impacts are summarized in Chapter 4 of Volume I and Appendix L. As indicated in Section 2.18, no traffic fatalities from nonradiological accidents or LCFs from radiological exposures or vehicle emissions are expected. Decisions on the surplus plutonium disposition program at Pantex will be based on environmental analyses (including analyses of transportation risks), technical and cost reports, national policy and nonproliferation considerations, and public input. DOE will announce its decisions regarding facility siting and approach to surplus plutonium disposition in the SPD EIS ROD.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Strom Thurmond and the good people of South Carolina would have you believe that Savannah River is the place for the Pit Disassembly and Conversion Facility. This is obviously a political issue and I will address it as such. I will prove to you that Pantex, from a political standpoint, is far and above the only reasonable site for the Pit Assembly and Conversion mission. What is more political than safety at any Nuclear Facility?? The community and country as a whole scrutinize facilities such as Pantex and Savannah River on a continual basis. This has been the case for forty or fifty years. The threat of a radiation disaster is far more political than Strom Thurmond's current and albeit short-lived political agenda for Savannah River. I bring to you and can prove to you in black and white that the workers are healthier and therefore safer than those at Savannah River. I am a physician in the Occupational Medical Department. At Pantex we have a strong, active and progressive preventive medicine program which not only benefits the health of the employee (DOE's greatest asset), but the health of every mission at Pantex. With a strong interactive preventive medicine program, my department has been able to work closely with all aspects of Labor and Management to insure the health and safety of the workers. The health of the workers translates into the safe and healthy accomplishment of the variety of missions at Pantex. The medical department has worked diligently to interact on a continuous basis with every department on the plant. There are frequent visits directly with the workers and first-line supervisors to evaluate and resolve safety and health issues. There is one-on-one communication with the employees and the medical department. If meetings are needed to resolve issues, then there is no hesitation to meet with all players involved. The Medical department is blessed with a wealth of knowledge in preventive and radiation medicine. Our medical director is double boarded in both Preventive Medicine and Occupational Medicine. His area of interest is in radiation protection and he excels in his ability to take care of the employees at Pantex. The entire department is dedicated to the health of the workers and follows Dept. of Energy orders and regulations strictly. From a strong drug and alcohol program to the Graded Cardiac Exercise testing program, the Occupational Medical Dept. can insure you that the workforce is healthy, safe, and far superior to the workforce in Savannah River in their ability to undertake the Pit Disassembly and Conversion Mission. And is not the community and the country's concern over safe and healthy operation of a nuclear facility POLITICAL?? I think so!!! Political fifty years ago, political today, and yes, political years from now. Ladies and gentlemen of DOE, I challenge you to come to our medical dept. at Pantex and see how we run business, and then I challenge you to go to Savannah River and have them show you that their workforce is AS healthy and safe as those at Pantex. And I don't mean lip service, I mean cold, hard, substantiated data. From a political standpoint that holds up now and far into the future, I am convinced that you will find that Pantex is the ONLY politically correct site for the Pit Disassembly and Conversion Mission. Thankyou very much.

1

Kimberly Baker, M.D.
Pantex - Battelle
Box 30020, 12-2
Amarillo TX
79120-0020

TXD06

TXD06-1

Alternatives

DOE acknowledges the commentor's support for siting the pit conversion facility at Pantex. Decisions on the surplus plutonium disposition program at Pantex will be based on environmental analyses (including analyses of human health risks to the public and workers), technical and cost reports, national policy and nonproliferation considerations, and public input. DOE will announce its decisions regarding facility siting and approach to surplus plutonium disposition in the SPD EIS ROD.

IF NOT NOW...

140 ARBORWAY, STE. 6, BOSTON, MA 02130-3500 USA
(517) 524-1342 • Fax (517) 524-1347 • contact@ifnotnow.com

To: DOE, Fax 18008205156
From: If Not Now: A Citizens Lobbying Tool, EMail rep-info@ifnotnow.com
Date: Sep 16, 1998 7:04 GMT
Subject: Plutonium Disposal By Burning In Nuclear Reactors

If Not Now is a web-based citizen's lobbying tool. We are forwarding to you a letter from some of your constituents. At the end of this message there is a description of how our service works and how you can respond to your constituents.

Signatures as of Sep 16, 1998:
There were 2 new signers. Total signers to date: 4.

TOPIC: Plutonium Disposal By Burning In Nuclear Reactors

Dear DOE (Fissile Materials Program),

I am writing to oppose the current Department of Energy plan for plutonium disposition, which is based on mixed-oxide (MOX) fuel. MOX fuel is a bad idea. It is unproven technology as far as commercial reactors in the U.S. are concerned. MOX techniques for plutonium disposal are also slower and more expensive than immobilization techniques. In addition, the treatment of plutonium as an energy source sets a dangerous precedent for nuclear proliferation and the development of plutonium fuel economies. It is essential that the DOE do everything possible to discourage this proliferation.

New signers and comments:

Krista Bradford, New York, NY 10033
Danielle Benzinger, Arlington, TX 76006

DESCRIPTION OF IF NOT NOW SERVICE

Subscribers use If Not Now (www.ifnotnow.com) to get information about political and social issues of concern to them. The service also enables them to sign letters about these topics, which we then forward in consolidated form to officials such as yourself. It is important to emphasize that our subscriber list is authenticated through credit card verification, and only those signers who belong to your specific constituency are included in the signature list that you receive.

FD312

FD312-1

MOX Approach

DOE acknowledges the commentor's opposition to the MOX approach to surplus plutonium disposition. While it is true MOX fuel has not been produced or used commercially in the U.S., it has been produced and used in Western Europe. MOX fuel fabrication is not a new technology. This experience would be used for disposition of the U.S. surplus plutonium. Pursuing both immobilization and MOX fuel fabrication provides the United States important insurance against potential disadvantages of implementing either approach by itself. The hybrid approach also provides the best opportunity for U.S. leadership in working with Russia to implement similar options for reducing Russia's excess plutonium in parallel. Further, it sends the strongest possible signal to the world of U.S. determination to reduce stockpiles of surplus plutonium as quickly as possible and in a manner that would make it technically difficult to use the plutonium in nuclear weapons again.

Any difference between the cost of the hybrid approach and that of the immobilization-only approach would be marginal. Although cost will be a factor in the decisionmaking process, this SPD EIS contains environmental impact data and does not address the costs associated with the various alternatives. A separate cost report, *Cost Analysis in Support of Site Selection for Surplus Weapons-Usable Plutonium Disposition* (DOE/MD-0009, July 1998), which analyzes the site-specific cost estimates for each alternative, was made available around the same time as the SPD Draft EIS. This report and the *Plutonium Disposition Life-Cycle Costs and Cost-Related Comment Resolution Document* (DOE/MD-0013, November 1999), which covers recent life-cycle cost analyses associated with the preferred alternative, are available on the MD Web site at <http://www.doe-md.com> and in the public reading rooms at the following locations: Hanford, INEEL, Pantex, SRS and Washington, D.C.



140 ARBORWAY, STE. 6, BOSTON, MA 02130-3522 USA
(617) 524-1342 • fax (617) 524-1347 • contact@ifnotnow.com

An important feature of If Not Now is that we follow up on every action letter that we send, and we report how representatives, officials and others have acted on the issue. We also provide you with the opportunity to respond to your constituents (via a password-protected web server, to ensure that only legitimate responses are posted). Follow the directions below. Your letter will be posted without editing; your constituents will be able to view your response when they check the results of that action. (We regret that we cannot process responses received via fax or US mail.) We strongly encourage you to send us a response! Our subscribers are active, involved citizens who want to hear from you.

To respond to an action letter: fill out the form at <http://www.ifnotnow.com/respond.html> -- you will need to use your special key: PeeTJlwV. This key is valid for one-time use only. Please send questions or comments via email to: rep-info@ifnotnow.com.

FD312

Yes, this is George Buckenal, and I live in Amarillo. It's 3:00 on Monday afternoon the 17th of August and I want to call and let you know that I would much support the pit disassembly work that is being considered for Pantex. This is a needed program at Pantex and for the area. I know that we have been a great support in the past for Pantex out of Amarillo and we certainly would continue to be so. But we need that here in Amarillo for the jobs it would bring to Amarillo and also the work force could certainly utilize the extra income that would come out of that. But we would certainly support the pit disassembly work being considered. I wish you'd please bring it to Amarillo. Thank you very much.

1

PD027

PD027-1

Alternatives

DOE acknowledges the commentor's support for siting the pit conversion facility at Pantex. Decisions on the surplus plutonium disposition program at Pantex will be based on environmental analyses, technical and cost reports, national policy and nonproliferation considerations, and public input. DOE will announce its decisions regarding facility siting and approach to surplus plutonium disposition in the SPD EIS ROD.

BUCKENAL, PATTY
PAGE 1 OF 1

This is Patty Buckenal and I live in Amarillo, TX and I would like to state for the record that I support the pit disassembly work going to the Pantex Plant here in Amarillo. Thank you.

1

PD029

PD029-1

Alternatives

DOE acknowledges the commentor's support for siting the pit conversion facility at Pantex. Decisions on the surplus plutonium disposition program at Pantex will be based on environmental analyses, technical and cost reports, national policy and nonproliferation considerations, and public input. DOE will announce its decisions regarding facility siting and approach to surplus plutonium disposition in the SPD EIS ROD.



August 11, 1998

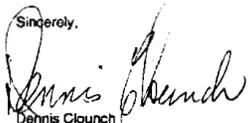
U.S. Department of Energy
Office of Fissile Materials Disposition
MD-4 Forrestal Building
1000 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Sirs,

I would like to take this opportunity to express my feelings about the location of the disassembly and conversion of nuclear weapons plutonium components ("pits") at the Amarillo Pantex plant. As a business owner and a citizen of Amarillo, I am totally in support of this function and hope you will consider the effort and the history of the Pantex plant in your decision making process for this site.

1

Sincerely,


Dennis Clouch
President

2400 West 7th • Amarillo, Texas 79106 • (806) 374-6262 • FAX (806) 374-7474 • 1-800-657-7131

FD149

FD149-1

Alternatives

DOE acknowledges the commentor's support for siting the pit conversion facility at Pantex. Decisions on the surplus plutonium disposition program at Pantex will be based on environmental analyses, technical and cost reports, national policy and nonproliferation considerations, and public input. DOE will announce its decisions regarding facility siting and approach to surplus plutonium disposition in the SPD EIS ROD.

3205 Kingston Rd
Amarillo Texas 79106
8/11/98

To Whom It May concern:

I favor the retention and development of the Pantex facility at the present location for the following reasons:

First, I think the relocation of the facilities would be an unnecessary cost to both the taxpayer and the employees of the plant. We do not need to spend the money on non-productive activities.

Second, I believe that the Pantex plant and the City of Amarillo have enjoyed many years of mutual benefit. The folk at the plant are desirable citizens and have a good work ethic.

Third, the central location of the plant, geographically, would discourage possible terrorist attacks yet is easily accessible by Interstate highways, railroad, and airways.

Charles A. Campbell

TXD22

TXD22-1

Alternatives

DOE acknowledges the commentator's support for the surplus plutonium disposition program at Pantex, which does not entail the relocation of any existing Pantex facilities. Decisions on the surplus plutonium disposition program at Pantex will be based on environmental analyses, technical and cost reports, national policy and nonproliferation considerations, and public input.

1

3205 Kingston Rd.
Amarillo, Tx. 79106
8/11/98

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a long-time resident of Amarillo and do favor the retention and development of the Pantex Plant at the present location for the following reasons:

1. The saving in money and effort to all concerned.
2. The geographically central location would aid in security of the plant.
3. The excellent transportation facilities (air ways, railroads, and highways)
4. The positive impact upon the economy of Amarillo.
5. The vast majority favor the present location in spite of the loud clamor of a few special interest groups.

Sincerely yours,
Helen Campbell

TXD23

TXD23-1

Alternatives

DOE acknowledges the commentor's support for the surplus plutonium disposition program at Pantex. Decisions on the surplus plutonium disposition program at Pantex will be based on environmental analyses, technical and cost reports, national policy and nonproliferation considerations, and public input.



United States
Department
of Energy

Comment Form

NAME: (Optional) JAMES N. BROOKES
ADDRESS: 702 S. MADISON
TELEPHONE: (802) 373 4574
E-MAIL: UBC665@AOL-NET

I am a carpenter and the business representative for the Carpenters Union Local 665. I represent 150 Carpenters and Millwrights in the Texas Panhandle. We currently work at Pantex and in the plant for contractors who build and remodel buildings. My members and I have personal experience as to safety and knowledge of handling the pits. I am for the pit conversion process to be done at Pantex. I am confident this process can be done safely and securely here at Pantex.

Please consider this comment as a plea for Pantex to be the selected site.

Thank You

James N. Brookes
Carpenters Union 665
Amarillo Texas 79101

TXD07

TXD07-1

Alternatives

DOE acknowledges the commentor's support for siting the pit conversion facility at Pantex. Decisions on the surplus plutonium disposition program at Pantex will be based on environmental analyses, technical and cost reports, national policy and nonproliferation considerations, and public input. DOE will announce its decisions regarding the facility siting and approach to surplus plutonium disposition in the SPD EIS ROD.

CATTLE COMPANY
JAY O'BRIEN
PAGE 1 OF 1

Ninia Bivins
 President

Jay O'Brien
 Managing Partner



CATTLE COMPANY
 Box 15305
 Amarillo, Texas 79105

August 16, 1998

U.S. Department of Energy
 Office of Fissile Materials Disposition

Sirs:

As the manager/operator of an 80,000 acre ranch twenty miles north west of Pantex and another 160,000 acre ranch 60 miles south east of Pantex and the owner of a 45,000 acre ranch 60 miles east of Pantex, I have a vested interest in maintaining the quality, as well as the perception, of quality of agricultural products produced in the Panhandle. Chernobyl was a catastrophe because of the radiation, but also because it happened in Russia's bread basket.

As a member of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association's Industry Planning Group, I can tell you that beef prices are impacted more by perception of food safety than by fact. Pantex is within a few miles of IBP's large beef processing plant, in the center of an area that produces 1/4 of the nations beef and within a few hundred feet of the Ogallala aquifer, which waters the nations grain supply.

There has to be a better place to put a facility dealing with deadly hazardous materials than on the incredibly small Pantex facility. Please consider the perception of food safety as you make your decision.

Sincerely,

Jay O'Brien

e-mail Jay@ranches.org

(806) 376-4147

FD109

FD109-1

Alternatives

DOE acknowledges the commentor's opposition to siting the proposed surplus plutonium disposition facilities at Pantex. The accidents analyzed for the proposed facilities are presented in detail in Appendix K, and the consequences are summarized by alternative in Chapter 4 of Volume I. It is impossible for DOE to predict how one of these accidents would be perceived by potential consumers of agricultural products from the Pantex. In the event of a severe accident, DOE would promptly take steps to interdict and contain any offsite contamination. Decisions on the surplus plutonium disposition program at Pantex will be based on environmental analyses (including analyses of facility accidents and the relative size of the site), technical and cost reports, national policy and nonproliferation considerations, and public input. DOE will announce its decisions regarding facility siting and approach to surplus plutonium disposition in the SPD EIS ROD.

I have worked at the plant for six years. I worked in the construction industry before that. I can honestly say this is the safest place I have ever worked at.

1

WD010

WD010-1

Alternatives

DOE acknowledges the commentor's support. Decisions on the surplus plutonium disposition program at Pantex will be based on environmental analyses, technical and cost reports, national policy and nonproliferation considerations, and public input.

STATEMENT REGARDING PIT DISASSEMBLY AND CONVERSION FACILITY LOCATION**AT PANTEX**

My name is Carlton Clemens and I have been in the Real Estate business in Amarillo for the past 34 years. In those years of business in the Amarillo community, I have met and worked with a large cross-section of residents, and the vast majority of those people have been strong supporters of Pantex. We long term residents are confident that the Plant is operated in a manner that places safety far above all other considerations, and I am happy to say that my children and my grandchildren are residents of Amarillo and I never have had a concern with Pantex being one of our neighbors.

If I had the slightest concern over the safe operations at Pantex, I would pack my family and leave Amarillo as fast as I could. But that is not the case. I have enjoyed living in Amarillo for the past 34 years, confident that my family and I have chosen a community that is safe, progressive, and supportive of an installation that produces weapons to keep our country strong.

As a veteran and rational citizen of these United States, I believe that PITS should be demilitarized as quickly as possible. The competition between Pantex and Savannah River Plants for the PIT conversion facility seems to be a waste of time and tax payer money since the PITS are already at Pantex and can more safely be converted than be shipped half way across the country to do the same thing. It just does not make sense to go to the extra expense and effort to satisfy the whims of politicians.

TXD44

TXD44-1**Alternatives**

DOE acknowledges the commentor's support for siting the pit conversion facility at Pantex. DOE agrees that the surplus plutonium pits should be disassembled and converted in a timely manner. SRS employees and employees at all of the candidate sites are considered qualified to support the surplus plutonium disposition program. It is understood that at any of the sites there will have to be a training period since these facilities would require new processes and skills. DOE plans to move ahead with the program as quickly as possible, given the constraints of the U.S. agreements with Russia.

Although cost will be a factor in the decisionmaking process, this SPD EIS contains environmental impact data and does not address the costs associated with the various alternatives. A separate cost report, *Cost Analysis in Support of Site Selection for Surplus Weapons-Usable Plutonium Disposition* (DOE/MD-0009, July 1998), which analyzes the site-specific cost estimates for each alternative, was made available around the same time as the SPD Draft EIS. This report and the *Plutonium Disposition Life-Cycle Costs and Cost-Related Comment Resolution Document* (DOE/MD-0013, November 1999), which covers recent life-cycle cost analyses associated with the preferred alternative, are available on the MD Web site at <http://www.doe-md.com> and in the public reading rooms at the following locations: Hanford, INEEL, Pantex, SRS and Washington, D.C. Decisions on future missions related to the surplus plutonium disposition program at Pantex will be based on environmental analyses (including analyses of transportation risks), technical and cost reports, national policy and nonproliferation considerations, and public input. DOE will announce its decisions regarding facility siting and approach to surplus plutonium disposition in the SPD EIS ROD.

CLEMENS, CARLTON
PAGE 2 OF 2

Both Pantex and Savannah River have trained technicians who are certified to perform the work that is required and no site can claim an advantage in the number of trained workers. Pantex, however, can claim the highest work ethic of any DOE installation and is represented by a strong, well managed and highly respected labor union — a statement that the Non-Union Savannah River Site cannot claim.

I would like to remind you that the fine employees at Pantex have more experience in handling pits than any other site in the DOE complex. The DOE should not place classified weapons components in the hands of employees at the Savannah River Site who have extremely limited experience in dealing with PITS.

Thank you for your consideration, and I am confident that after you review all the FACTS in this important task, you will find that Pantex is the clear choice for the PIT Disassembly and Conversion Facility!

Thank you sincerely for your time.


Carlton Clemens

August 11, 1998

TXD44

1

3-767

We have had a safe and long history of handling plutonium. People in Amarillo back up the DOE and this will bring jobs to Amarillo. We need Pantex here and I totally support this.

1

WD014

WD014-1

Alternatives

DOE acknowledges the commentor's support for the surplus plutonium disposition program at Pantex. Decisions on the surplus plutonium disposition program at Pantex will be based on environmental analyses, technical and cost reports, national policy and nonproliferation considerations, and public input.

3805 Overlook Drive
Amarillo, TX 79109
September 11, 1998

U.S. Department of Energy
Office of Fissile Materials Disposition
P.O. Box 23786
Washington, D.C. 20026-3786

Re: Draft Surplus Plutonium Disposition EIS

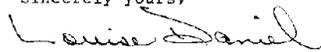
I oppose any form of plutonium processing at the Pantex facility. The Plutonium Pit Disassembly and Conversion facility should be located at Savannah River for the following reasons:

1. The number of sites with plutonium contamination should not be increased. Every site which has been involved in plutonium processing is substantially contaminated. While Pantex has environmental damage, the contaminants do not include plutonium and it should not be introduced.
2. Plutonium processing requires substantial infrastructure which already exists at Savannah River. It is not cost-effective to duplicate facilities at Pantex.
3. The work force at Savannah River is trained and experienced in plutonium processing while the work force at Pantex has been confined to dismantling and storing sealed weapons components. These jobs require different skills. Retraining the Pantex work force would be expensive.
4. It would be cheaper and safer to ship sealed pits from Pantex to Savannah River than to ship disassembled and converted pits.
5. Pantex is located in an agricultural area and is situated over the Ogallala aquifer. The risk to the land and water by plutonium processing of any kind is unacceptable.

The prospect of additional jobs and federal dollars at Pantex does not offset the valid reasons for locating the Plutonium Pit Disassembly and Conversion facility at Savannah River.

In 1996, DOE stated that "plutonium would not be introduced into a site that does not currently have a plutonium infrastructure because of the high cost and complexity of introducing plutonium operation into sites without current capabilities." This was a logical policy in 1996, and it is a logical policy now.

Sincerely yours,



Louise Daniel

MD191

MD191-1

Alternatives

DOE acknowledges the commentor's opposition to siting the pit conversion facility at Pantex. As indicated in the revised Section 1.6, SRS is preferred for the proposed facilities because the site has extensive experience with plutonium processing, and these facilities complement existing missions and take advantage of existing infrastructure.

MD191-2

Alternatives

DOE acknowledges the commentor's support for siting the proposed surplus plutonium disposition facilities at SRS. As indicated in the revised Section 1.6, SRS is preferred for the proposed facilities because the site has extensive experience with plutonium processing, and these facilities complement existing missions and take advantage of existing infrastructure. Although Pantex may not currently have the extensive plutonium processing infrastructure already present at SRS, analyses in Chapter 4 of Volume I indicate that impacts of construction and normal operation of the proposed facilities on infrastructure, health, safety, and the environment at Pantex would likely be minor. Decisions on the surplus plutonium disposition program at Pantex and SRS will be based on environmental analyses (including analyses of transportation risks), technical and cost reports, national policy and nonproliferation considerations, and public input. DOE will announce its decisions regarding facility siting and approach to surplus plutonium disposition in the SPD EIS ROD.

MD191-3

Other

DOE acknowledges the commentor's support of the SRS workforce. Experienced employees would be trained in the specific activities involved with the surplus plutonium disposition program regardless of where the facilities are located.

MD191-4

Transportation

This SPD EIS analyzes shipping surplus plutonium both in the form of pits (Alternative 3) and plutonium dioxide (Alternative 5) from Pantex to SRS. The transportation risks and costs would be slightly higher for Alternative 3 because the required number of SST/SGT shipments are higher for pits

than plutonium dioxide. The radiological risk for both alternatives is about the same.

MD191-5**Water Resources**

DOE acknowledges the commentor's opposition to siting the proposed surplus plutonium disposition facilities at Pantex. The analyses presented in Section 4.26.3.2.2 indicate that there would be no discernible impacts on the quality of water in the Ogallala aquifer from normal operation of these facilities. Other sections show, moreover, that the normal operation of these facilities would likely have minor impacts on human health, agriculture, and livestock: Sections 4.17.1.4 and 4.17.2.4 address the potential radiological and hazardous chemical effects of the maximum-impact alternative on workers and the public at Pantex; Appendix J.3, the potential contamination of agricultural products and livestock, and consumption of these products by persons living within an 80-km (50-mi) radius of Pantex.

DAY, HELEN C. AND JOE R.
PAGE 1 OF 1

Tuesday, August 11, 1998

Department Of Energy
Washington, D.C.

To Whom It May Concern:

My husband and I would like to go on record in support for the pit disassembly and conversion facility at Pantex. We believe that the Pantex Plant in Amarillo has had a very good safety record over the years that it has been in the city.

The city of Amarillo and Pantex have enjoyed a good working relationship for many years, and we would like to see Pantex have a new mission in Amarillo.

Sincerely,

Helen C. Day

Joe R. Day

Joe R. Day
3509 Hilson
Amarillo, TX 79109

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TXD16

TXD16-1

Alternatives

DOE acknowledges the commentors' support for siting the pit conversion facility at Pantex. Decisions on the surplus plutonium disposition program at Pantex will be based on environmental analyses, technical and cost reports, national policy and nonproliferation considerations, and public input. DOE will announce its decisions regarding facility siting and approach to surplus plutonium disposition in the SPD EIS ROD.



United States
Department
of Energy

Comment Form

NAME: (Optional) Helen Charlene Day
ADDRESS: 3509 Kileen Amarillo, Tex. 79109
TELEPHONE: (806) 353-3252
E-MAIL:

Additional Comments:

I feel Pantex is the best location for the pit disassembly and conversion because the pits are already in storage at the Amarillo Pantex Plant, and will never have to leave on a long dangerous road trip to Savannah River.

Pantex workers have highly skilled jobs ~~workers~~ with excellent ~~work~~ ethics and would contribute greatly to the new missions.

Pantex has the support of the city leaders, chamber of commerce, leaders of the state and a majority of Pawnee citizens.

It is my sincere hope that the location will be chosen where the work can be done safely and correctly. I feel that the Pantex Plant will be that site.

1

TXD18

TXD18-1

Alternatives

DOE acknowledges the commentor's support for siting the pit conversion facility at Pantex. Transportation impacts are summarized in Chapter 4 of Volume I and Appendix L. As indicated in Section 2.18, no traffic fatalities from nonradiological accidents or LCFs from radiological exposures or vehicle emissions are expected under any of the proposed alternatives. Decisions on the surplus plutonium disposition program at Pantex will be based on environmental analyses (including analyses of transportation risks), technical and cost reports, national policy and nonproliferation considerations, and public input. DOE will announce its decisions regarding facility siting and approach to surplus plutonium disposition in the SPD EIS ROD.

To whom it may concern,

I would like to affirm my support of the Pit Disassembly and Conversion Facility being located at Pantex Plant. I would like to speak first from the perspective of a Pantex employee. I've worked in the Information Management Division for 16 years and have watched the Plant successfully face a broad range of challenges.

These include changes in legal regulations, changes in mission, and reduced budgets and staffing. In each case, I've watched as the Plant's employees (bargaining, non-bargaining, and management) have rallied to address the critical issues at hand. One of the accomplishments that I am most proud of, is the safety culture at Pantex.

The commitment to safety starts with the General Manager and is formally included as the #1 performance objective of every employee at the Plant. There is a high level of individual ownership in the area of safety and this is clearly evident by the improvements in recordable injuries made over the past 3 years. Safety is integrated into every activity carried out at the Plant.

Another area of excellence at Pantex is environmental stewardship. The staff and program in place at Pantex are *second to none*, as evidenced by the pro-active approach to issues such as aquifer protection. Pantex has consistently been favorably evaluated by 3rd party regulatory agencies -- groups who have nothing to gain from the Plant's continued operation!

From the perspective of a long-term (39 year) resident of Amarillo and the Texas panhandle, I believe the new PDCF mission would be beneficial to the local community -- from an economic, ecological, and social perspective. Obviously, the new mission would provide employment opportunities for local residents - our friends and our families. Also, we know these stable jobs have a ripple effect through the overall economy of the area.

In addition, I would like to remind everyone that the ground water, soil, air, and other natural resources do not solely belong to the area's agriculture industry. Everyone who lives in this area is a benefactor of clean air and water. As a citizen of this area, I am much more concerned about the ground water required and the waste stream created by industries other than Pantex.

As other citizens, I am concerned by the potential for aquifer contamination from the over-use of pesticides and fertilizers, the run-off from stock yards, and the inappropriate use of industrial chemicals. I believe that the work represented by the PDCF creates much less environmental impact to the area than other industries (e.g. hog farms).

The social impact of a business like Pantex is extensive. Employees of this Plant contribute financially to important social programs such as the United Way. In addition, they volunteer an in-numerable amount of their personal time to local schools, churches, and community service groups. Pantex provides employment opportunities for a wide variety of people ranging from High School graduates to Ph.D.'s -- pipe-fitters to scientists. This mixture provides a balanced social climate, with ample room for our children to live and grow.

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TXD17

TXD17-1

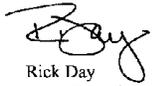
Alternatives

DOE acknowledges the commentor's support for siting the pit conversion facility at Pantex. Analyses in Chapter 4 of Volume I indicate that impacts of operating the pit conversion facility on health, safety, and the environment at Pantex would likely be minor. Decisions on the surplus plutonium dispositions program at Pantex will be based on environmental analyses, technical and cost reports, national policy and nonproliferation considerations, and public input. DOE will announce its decisions regarding facility siting and approach to surplus plutonium disposition in the SPD EIS ROD.

In summary, the PDCF mission would allow Pantex to continue providing stability to the local community. This is healthy for everyone who wants to continue living in this area. For the area to remain a viable place to live, we can't just rely on more hog farms, truck stops, and prisons. For the area to remain strong, there must be a patch work of businesses with diverse economic resources and business cycles, that employ a wide range of workers, with diverse educational backgrounds and vocational skills.

1

Thanks for your time



Rick Day
6101 Cornell
Amarillo, TX 79109

(806) 358-2717

TXD17



United States
Department
of Energy

Comment Form

NAME: (Optional) Don Dodson
ADDRESS: P.O. Box 32552, Amarillo, TX 79120-2552
TELEPHONE: (806) 355-9161
E-MAIL: _____

I would like to express my support
for Pantex and its mission.

It is only logical that the plutonium pits
are currently located in Amarillo/Pantex
plants that should be location for disassembly

I had the opportunity to visit St. Petersburg
Russia on vacation this summer and it was
my observation that we need to take every
opportunity to reduce Russia's plutonium
inventory and to do it as soon as possible.

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2

TXD10

TXD10-1

Alternatives

DOE acknowledges the commentator's support for siting the pit conversion facility at Pantex. Decisions on the surplus plutonium disposition program at Pantex will be based on environmental analyses, technical and cost reports, national policy and nonproliferation considerations, and public input. DOE will announce its decisions regarding facility siting and approach to surplus plutonium disposition in the SPD EIS ROD.

TXD10-2

DOE Policy

DOE acknowledges the commentator's concern regarding the reduction of Russia's plutonium inventory. The United States and Russia recently made progress in the management and disposition of plutonium. In late July 1998, Vice President Gore and Russian Prime Minister Sergei Kiriyenko signed a 5-year agreement to provide the scientific and technical basis for decisions concerning how surplus plutonium will be managed. This agreement enables the two countries to explore mutually acceptable strategies for safeguarding and dispositioning surplus plutonium. During the first week of September 1998, Presidents Clinton and Yeltsin held a Moscow summit and signed a statement of principles with the intention of removing approximately 50 t (55 tons) of plutonium from each country's stockpile.

Understanding the economic dilemma in Russia, the U.S. Congress has appropriated funding for a series of small-scale tests and demonstrations of plutonium disposition technologies jointly conducted by the United States and Russia. For fiscal year 1999 (starting October 1998), Congress further appropriated funding to assist Russia in design and construction of a plutonium conversion facility and a MOX fuel fabrication facility. This funding would not be expended until the presidents of both countries signed a new agreement.

August 10, 1998

U. S. Department of Energy
Office of Fissile Materials Disposition c/o SPDEIS
Box 23786
Washington, DC 20026-3786

REF: Location of Pit Disassembly and Conversion Facility

As an employee at the Pantex Plant in Amarillo, Texas, and a long term resident of the Amarillo, Texas, I want to see the pit conversion work done at Pantex.

This is not just a personal issue. The real consideration should be safety, and of the two possible sites, Pantex is the safer facility. This can easily be confirmed by reviewing existing records for both facilities. At times it has almost seemed like Pantex was overlooked for additional weapons-related work because we are such a clean site.

The safety record is directly attributable to the efforts of plant employees, who have worked very hard through the years to meet or exceed requirements. Even in the years before the creation of the various oversight agencies such as OSHA, the plant functioned safely. The technical skills of the employees who do hands on weapon work is another reason for the excellent record.

The fact that Texas is not as strong politically -- we don't have aggressive PACs or Strom Thurmond fighting for us -- should not be the major deciding point. As a matter of fact, maybe politics should be left out of it altogether.

The Pantex Plant has provided jobs for my family since 1959, and I hope that it will continue to provide employment for me and many others in the future. The Pantex Plant now has thousands of pits stored. Why risk shipping these items to another location? Why increase the cost to do the job?

I sincerely hope that the DOE will look at all issues with an open mind with the major consideration being safety. The second and third considerations should be the technical skill of the employees, and the last consideration should be cost. If these things are considered without PAC or other political influence, the only logical choice is for the pit conversion to be done at the Pantex Plant.

Respectfully submitted,


Sarah Dworzack

MD019

MD019-1

Alternatives

DOE acknowledges the commentor's support for siting the pit conversion facility at Pantex. DOE believes that all the candidate sites are suitable from an operational, community support, and safety standpoint.

Although cost will be a factor in the decisionmaking process, this SPD EIS contains environmental impact data and does not address the costs associated with the various alternatives. A separate cost report, *Cost Analysis in Support of Site Selection for Surplus Weapons-Usable Plutonium Disposition* (DOE/MD-0009, July 1998), which analyzes the site-specific cost estimates for each alternative, was made available around the same time as the SPD Draft EIS. This report and the *Plutonium Disposition Life-Cycle Costs and Cost-Related Comment Resolution Document* (DOE/MD-0013, November 1999), which covers recent life-cycle cost analyses associated with the preferred alternative, are available on the MD Web site at <http://www.doe-md.com> and in the public reading rooms at the following locations: Hanford, INEEL, Pantex, SRS and Washington, D.C.

Decisions on the surplus plutonium disposition program at Pantex will be based on environmental analyses (including analyses of transportation risks), technical and cost reports, national policy and nonproliferation considerations, and public input. DOE will announce its decisions regarding facility siting and approach to surplus plutonium disposition in the SPD EIS ROD.



United States
Department
of Energy

Comment Form

NAME: (Optional) Mary Emery
ADDRESS: Box 1988, Bushland, TX 79012
TELEPHONE: (817) 26-5407
E-MAIL: _____

The question I would ask is the following:
Which is more likely to be spread if there is an accident
in transportation: PITS or MOX fuel
If MOX it would seem prudent to have MOX the
shortest distance
If PITS then PITS should be transported the shortest distance
There are more nuclear plants relatively close to
Savannah River than Palo Verde. If MOX (which
is a powder) is more easily released through accident
then it would seem prudent to make the conversion
to MOX at Savannah River

TXD05

TXD05-1

Transportation

The transportation requirements for the surplus plutonium disposition program are evaluated in this SPD EIS. The analysis showed that the accident risk would be slightly higher for plutonium dioxide than pits because the dioxide is in a powder form and therefore subject to more dispersal in an accident. However, this single fact cannot be used as the deciding factor in making a decision on the location of facilities. The number of SST/SGT trips required to transport these two forms and the mileage between facilities are also considered in the overall transportation risk analysis of each alternative. Decisions on the surplus plutonium disposition program will be based on environmental analyses (including analyses of transportation risks), technical and cost reports, national policy and nonproliferation considerations, and public input.

GOOD EVENING.....MY NAME IS INEZ ERWIN.....I AM AN EMPLOYEE AT PANTEX PLANT AND I WAS NOT BUSSED IN TO ATTEND THIS MEETING

.....I FEEL THAT THE WORK IN QUESTION CAN AND SHOULD BE PERFORMED AT PANTEX PLANT.....NOT ONLY ARE WE SKILLED IN OUR JOB PERFORMANCE - AND AS WE DEFINITELY ARE NOT AMATEURS - ADDITIONAL TRAINING WOULD NOT BE A MAJOR FACTORIN FACT, WE HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO TRAIN PERSONNEL FROM OTHER SITES - SUCH AS- SAVANNAH RIVER.....IT WOULD BE COST EFFECTIVE FOR THE MISSION TO BE PLACED AT PANTEX PLANT.....AND AS WE ALL KNOW.....COST IS THE NAME OF THE GAME.....

+ Safety

PANTEX PERSONNEL ARE COMMITTED AS WELL AS BEING DEDICATED TO EXCELLENCE IN THE PERFORMANCE OF SUCH SKILLED ENDEAVORS.

THANK YOU LADIES AND GENTLEMEN FOR YOUR ATTENTION.

TXD34

TXD34-1**Alternatives**

DOE acknowledges the commentor's support for the surplus plutonium disposition program at Pantex. Although cost will be a factor in the decisionmaking process, this SPD EIS contains environmental impact data and does not address the costs associated with the various alternatives. A separate cost report, *Cost Analysis in Support of Site Selection for Surplus Weapons-Usable Plutonium Disposition* (DOE/MD-0009, July 1998), which analyzes the site-specific cost estimates for each alternative, was made available around the same time as the SPD Draft EIS. This report and the *Plutonium Disposition Life-Cycle Costs and Cost-Related Comment Resolution Document* (DOE/MD-0013, November 1999), which covers recent life-cycle cost analyses associated with the preferred alternative, are available on the MD Web site at <http://www.doe-md.com> and in the public reading rooms at the following locations: Hanford, INEEL, Pantex, SRS and Washington, D.C. Decisions on the surplus plutonium disposition program at Pantex will be based on environmental analyses, technical and cost reports, national policy and nonproliferation considerations, and public input.

GENERAL SERVICES COMMISSION
ROGER MULDER
PAGE 1 OF 2



General Services Commission
1711 San Jacinto - P.O. Box 13047
Austin, Texas 78711-3047
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(512) 463-3035

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Tom Teasdaley

August 11, 1998

Mr. Bert Stevenson
NEPA Compliance Officer
U.S. Department of Energy
P.O. Box 23786
Washington, D.C. 20026-3786

Dear Mr. Stevenson:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Department of Energy's *Surplus Plutonium Disposition Draft Environmental Impact Statement*. The State of Texas continues to support the Department's decision to pursue a dual track approach for the disposition of surplus plutonium. However, we believe it is in DOE's best interests to proceed in a manner that ensures broad acceptance for ultimate implementation of the dual disposition strategy.

The State of Texas is very proud of the work carried out at the Pantex Plant. Pantex and its thousands of dedicated, highly trained and motivated employees have made this nation a safer place to live, carrying out their primary mission of assembling and disassembling nuclear weapons. This same skilled workforce can apply its proven production culture and commitment to safety to the new mission of plutonium pit disassembly and conversion.

Because current and future personnel of this new mission will require training on new procedures, Pantex has a unique safety advantage over other sites in that its workforce will require training, not re-training. Clearly, it is preferable to train individuals on a new system, rather than re-train personnel who are used to older systems with outdated procedures and requirements.

The highly trained and motivated Pantex workforce has forged a strong relationship with the Amarillo community. Its commitment to maintaining the integrity of the environment, to implementing proper protocols to ensure the safety of workers and the larger community, and to working closely with the local community have earned Pantex the role of a good neighbor. Pantex enjoys considerable community support and enthusiasm for new missions.

TXD39

TXD39-1

Alternatives

DOE acknowledges the commentor's support for the hybrid approach to surplus plutonium disposition and for siting the pit conversion facility at Pantex. Analyses in Chapter 4 of Volume I indicate that impacts of operating the pit conversion facility on health, safety, and the environment at Pantex would likely be minor. Decisions on the surplus plutonium disposition program at Pantex will be based on environmental analyses, technical and cost reports, national policy and nonproliferation considerations, and public input. DOE will announce its decisions regarding facility siting and approach to surplus plutonium disposition in the SPD EIS ROD.

GENERAL SERVICES COMMISSION
ROGER MULDER
PAGE 2 OF 2

This support extends beyond the local community as well. Pantex has ample resources through the state and through the continuing research at the Amarillo National Resource Center for Plutonium to ensure the protection of human health and safety and the environment.

Pantex has another advantage in that it is currently storing more than 8,000 surplus plutonium pits. In addition to the compelling reasons such as the excellent safety culture and production culture already existing here at Pantex, it makes sense to carry out pit disassembly and plutonium conversion where the pits are already located. Selection of Pantex for pit disassembly and conversion should ensure some expediency in carrying out U.S. and international nonproliferation goals.

In view of Pantex's highly skilled workforce, its sound safety and production cultures, its existing mission of pit storage, and the extensive support which Pantex enjoys from the local community and from the state, I respectfully urge DOE to designate Pantex as the site for pit disassembly and conversion.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in this important decision making process.

Sincerely,



ROGER MULDER
Director, Pantex Program