

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

MICHAEL P. MURPHY

PAGE 1 OF 4



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

James S. Gilmore, III
Governor

Street address: 629 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dennis H. Treacy
Director

Mailing address: P.O. Box 10009, Richmond, Virginia 23240

(804) 698-4000
1-800-592-5482

John Paul Woodley, Jr.
Secretary of Natural Resources

Fax (804) 698-4500 TDD (804) 698-4021

<http://www.deq.state.va.us>

September 15, 1998

Mr. Howard R. Canter, Acting Director
Office of Fissile Materials Disposition
P.O. Box 23786
Washington, D.C. 20026-3786

RE: Surplus Plutonium Disposition Draft Environmental Impact
Statement (DEIS)

Dear Mr. Canter

The Commonwealth of Virginia Agencies have completed their review of the DEIS for the noted action. The Department of Environmental Quality is responsible for coordinating Virginia's review of federal environmental documents and responding to the appropriate officials on behalf of the Commonwealth. The following locality and agencies participated in this review:

Department of Environmental Quality; and
Hampton Roads Planning District Commission.

In addition, the Department of Health and the Department of Emergency Services were invited to comment through the Department of Environmental Quality.

The document identifies reasonable alternatives and potential environmental impacts for the proposed siting, construction, and operation of three facilities for plutonium disposition. The first is a facility to disassemble and convert pits, a nuclear weapons component, into plutonium oxide suitable for disposition. The preferred sites are Pantex Plant and Savannah River Site (SRS). The second is a facility to immobilize surplus plutonium for disposal in a geologic repository. SRS is the preferred site. The third is a facility to fabricate plutonium oxide into mixed oxide (MOX) fuel. SRS is the preferred site. The EIS also discusses decommissioning and decontamination of the three facilities.

An Agency of the Natural Resources Secretariat

FD308

3-1027

Comment Documents and Responses—Virginia

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
 MICHAEL P. MURPHY
 PAGE 2 OF 4

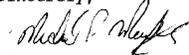
Mr. Howard R. Cantor
 September 15, 1998
 Page Two

The Commonwealth offers the following comments and recommendations:

- None of the facilities are located in Virginia. The Commonwealth's only concern is with shipment of the surplus plutonium through the state. Will this issue be addressed in the final EIS or in a separate document?
- Any transportation of wastes through Virginia should be preceded with advance notification to the Department of Emergency Services, Brian Iverson, at (804) 674-2400 and the affected localities so that adequate safety precautions may be taken. The localities should be notified directly in advance of any notification to the news media.
- The Department of Environmental Quality will coordinate the Commonwealth's review and response on the final environmental impact statement for this proposal, if appropriate. Correspondence should be addressed to: Director, Office of Environmental Impact Review, Department of Environmental Quality, P. O. Box 10009, 629 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23240-0009.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the DEIS for the proposed activity. The comments of the reviewing agencies are attached for your review and consideration.

Sincerely,



Michael P. Murphy, Director
 Division of Environmental
 Enhancement

Attachments

cc: Arthur L. Collins, Hampton Roads PDC
 Brian Iverson, DES
 Kerita L. Kegler, DEQ-TRO

FD308

FD308-1

Transportation

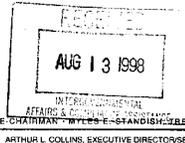
After DOE selects an alternative, a transportation plan (in which State, tribal, and local officials in addition to DOE, the carrier, and other Federal agencies would be involved) would be prepared to address the details of implementing the actions analyzed in this SPD EIS, including prenotification of States. The shipment of nuclear material (e.g., depleted uranium) using commercial carriers would be the subject of detailed transportation plans in which routes and specific processing locations would be discussed. These plans are coordinated with State, tribal, and local officials. The shipment of waste would be in accordance with the decisions reached on the *Final Waste Management Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Managing Treatment, Storage, and Disposal of Radioactive and Hazardous Waste* (DOE/EIS-0200-F, May 1997) and the *WIPP Disposal Phase Final Supplemental EIS* (DOE/EIS-0026-S-2, September 1997). 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 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>.

DOE reserves the right to consider traversing States in accordance with DOT regulations and route selection criteria. DOE Order 460.2, *Departmental Materials Transportation and Packaging Management*, and 10 CFR 71.97 contain the requirements for notifying States and tribes before shipping waste within or through their jurisdictions.

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
 MICHAEL P. MURPHY
 PAGE 3 OF 4



JOE S. FRANK, CHAIRMAN · ROBERT C. CLAUD, SR., VICE-CHAIRMAN · TWYLER E. STANDISH, TREASURER
 ARTHUR L. COLLINS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/SECRETARY



August 11, 1998

CHESAPEAKE
 W. Joe Newman, Council Member
 John L. Pagnou, City Manager
 Elizabeth P. Thornton, Council Member

FRANKLIN
 Robert E. Harris, Vice-Mayor
 Howard L. Taylor, City Manager

GLOUCESTER COUNTY
 Graham C. Blake, Board Member
 William H. Whitler, County Administrator

HAMPTON
 James L. Eaton, Mayor
 Dr. Mamie E. Locke, Council Member
 George E. Wallace, City Manager

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY
 W. Douglas Caskey, County Administrator
 Robert C. Claud, Sr., Chairman

JAMES CITY COUNTY
 Jack D. Edwards, Chairman
 Sanford B. Warner, County Administrator

NEWPORT NEWS
 Charles C. Allen, Vice-Mayor
 Joe S. Frank, Mayor
 Edgar E. Maroney, City Manager

NORFOLK
 Mason C. Andrews, M.D., Council Member
 Herbert M. Collins, Sr., Vice-Mayor
 Paul D. Frantz, Mayor
 Dawn S. Hester, Council Member
 James S. Oliver, Jr., City Manager

POQUOSON
 Charles W. Burgess, Jr., City Manager
 Gordon C. Hensel, Jr., Mayor

PORTSMOUTH
 J. Thomas Blank, III, Council Member
 Ronald W. Massee, City Manager
 P. Ward Robinson, Jr., Council Member

SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY
 Michael W. Johnson, County Administrator
 Charleton W. Sykes, Board Member

SUFFOLK
 Marian B. Rogers, Council Member
 Myles E. Standish, City Manager

VIRGINIA BEACH
 John A. Baum, Council Member
 Linwood O. Branch, III, Council Member
 W. W. Harrison, Jr., Council Member
 Louis R. Jones, Council Member
 Mayra E. Oberndorf, Mayor
 Nancy K. Parker, Council Member
 James K. Spore, City Manager

WILLIAMSBURG
 Jackson C. Tuttle, II, City Manager
 Jeanne Zedler, Vice-Mayor

YORK COUNTY
 Sheila S. Noll, Chairman
 Daniel M. Sluck, County Administrator

Mr. Thomas M. Felvey
 Environmental Technical Service Administrator
 Department of Environmental Quality
 629 East Main Street
 Richmond, Virginia 23219

Re: Surplus Plutonium Disposition
 DEQ #98-061F (ENV.NUKE)

Dear Mr. Felvey:

Pursuant to your request of July 31, 1998, the staff of the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission has reviewed Surplus Plutonium Disposition Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Based on this review, it appears that the report does not indicate whether any surplus plutonium will be transported using the ports or roads of the Hampton Roads region. We need this issue clarified before we can provide any significant comments on the proposed project.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this project. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

 Arthur L. Collins
 Executive Director/Secretary

HRV:fh

1

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
MICHAEL P. MURPHY
PAGE 4 OF 4

To: Thomas M. Felvey@OCS@DEQ
Cc:
Bcc:
From: Kerita L. Kegler@VABC1@DEQ
Subject: Environmental Review
Date: Thursday, August 13, 1998 10:33:32 EDT
Attach:
Certify: N
Forwarded by:

Thank you for the clarification. We don't have any comments on the information presented in the study. We, will however, be on the lookout for the citizen calls once the material starts moving thru tidewater.

Thanks again

FD308