

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
WILLIE R. TAYLOR, WASHINGTON, D.C.
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United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, D.C. 20240



ER 99/428

JUN 23 1999

Laura S. H. Holgate
Director
Office of Fissile Materials Disposition
U. S. Department of Energy
P.O. Box 23786
Washington, DC 20026-3786

Dear Ms. Holgate:

The United States Department of the Interior has reviewed the supplement to the Surplus Plutonium Disposition Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and offers the following comments.

The proposal would include use of MOX fuel at existing reactors, with no new construction and no significant change in emissions. Accident risks and containment measures are described in the document; the associated risks to ecological systems would probably be similarly low as those described for humans. Since the use of MOX fuel in existing reactors would not be expected to result in any impacts to ecological resources, including listed species, we would concur with a "no effect" determination.

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Thank you for the opportunity to review the draft EIS.

Sincerely,

Willie R. Taylor
Director
Office of Environmental Policy
and Compliance

MR015

MR015-1

MOX Approach

DOE acknowledges the Department of Interior's agreement that the use of MOX fuel in existing, commercial reactors would have "no effect" on ecological resources.

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
RICHARD E. SANDERSON, WASHINGTON, D.C.
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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF
ENFORCEMENT AND
COMPLIANCE ASSURANCE

JUL 2 1999

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

Re: Surplus Plutonium Disposition Supplement

Dear Ms. Holgate:

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the Department of Energy Surplus Plutonium Disposition Supplement to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS). The SEIS provides the preferred sites for the pit disassembly and plutonium conversion facility; the lead assembly fabrication; the immobilization facility; the mixed oxide fuel facility (MOX); and post-irradiation examination. Also included in this SEIS is a synopsis of DOE's environmental critique of the data submitted by the contractor. EPA commends DOE for providing this additional information. However, the issues addressed in our September 16, 1998 letter on the DEIS are not addressed and therefore remain the same.

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We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposed project. If you have any questions please contact me (564-2400) or Marguerite Duffy (564-7148).

Sincerely,

Richard E. Sanderson
Director
Office of Federal Activities

MR026-1

General SPD EIS and NEPA Process

Issues raised in EPA's previous letter are addressed in Volume III, Chapter 3.