

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF



Linda J. Schwehofer
Supervisor

Julie Ann Wallace
Clerk

Leona Markel
Treasurer

Robert R. Allen
Trustee

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4560 Indian Trail
China Township, Michigan 48054
(610) 765-1145
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June 28, 1999

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

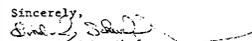
RE: SURPLUS PLUTONIUM DISPOSITION ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
STATEMENT

Dear Sirs:

Let me first introduce myself. I am Supervisor of China Charter Township, St. Clair County, China, MI. Representative David Bonior has been on the forefront of this very pressing issue as it could impact our Great Lakes area. Our fresh water lakes are a God-given gift, something to be protected and preserved.

There is no way we ever want to see plutonium coming through this area, passing over the Blue Water Bridge into Canada, or any other route, be it railway tunnel, etc. The danger is too great to take a chance that some disaster might occur. I ask, on behalf of my constituents, as well as all those living in our great state, but even more far reaching than that; I ask, for all those people across our great nation who visit our state to see all of its natural beauty, but more importantly, for those who rely on this fresh-water source.

Hear my plea and act accordingly. For this I shall be truly grateful.

Sincerely,

Linda J. Schwehofer
China Charter Township Supervisor

cc/ Representative David Bonior
Troy Feltman, St. Clair County Administrator
Lauren Hager, Representative

1

FR007

FR007-1

Parallex EA

Shipments of a small quantity of MOX fuel from LANL to Canada were part of a separate proposed action. DOE has prepared an *Environmental Assessment for the Parallex Project Fuel Manufacture and Shipment* (DOE/EA-1216, January 1999) and FONSI, signed August 13, 1999, on fabrication of the MOX fuel and its transportation to Canada. Because the Blue Water Bridge in Port Huron, Michigan, will be under renovation during the time of the proposed shipment, the route using that bridge was removed from consideration. This EA and FONSI can be viewed on the MD Web site at <http://www.doe-md.com>.

CITIZENS FOR ALTERNATIVES TO CHEMICAL CONTAMINATION
KAY CUMBOW
PAGE 1 OF 2

Comments on the Supplement to the Surplus Plutonium Disposition Draft
 Environmental Impact Statement (DOE/EIS-0283-DS)
 To the DOE,

At the very least, the EIS should not be finalized UNTIL hearings are held in the communities close to the reactors that will be using MOX in the U.S.. It is unbelievable that the DOE would refuse to hold hearings in the communities that would be most affected.

I am strongly opposed to the use of MOX in reactors, as it does nothing to stop the production of plutonium. It will be used as fuel to PRODUCE MORE plutonium. It also will end any pretense the U.S. has had for stopping the global proliferation of bomb-grade materials. It is also being done without the knowledge of most taxpayers in this country. We after all are the ones who will pay for clean-up, for additional cancers and leukemias, for an increased arms race, for the heightened spread of nuclear power throughout an ecologically fragile world. We are the ones who will be left with poisoned groundwater, and soils, as well as having to dedicate not only our time and money but that of foreseeable future generations to guarding the end "products" and endlessly repackaging them, when they leak (if that is indeed possible) lest all of the Earth's waters and soils and air become a toxic ruin.

The International Joint Commission of the Great Lakes has stated that there are some substances that are so toxic they should not be produced in the Great Lakes. They call those substances persistent toxins. Plutonium easily meets the criteria - toxic substances with a half-life of 8 weeks in water, that bioaccumulate. Plutonium also becomes 1,500 times more soluble to the human body if mixed with chlorine, according to Water Fit to Drink, a book found in most libraries in the state of Michigan. The International Joint Commission stated that the U.S. and Canadian governments should begin phase-out of radioactive substances that fit this criteria, and they add that plutonium is indeed a radionuclide of concern. The U.S. DOE should heed these words from the International Joint Commission. It is one world. Toxins move by air, by water, through the soil. We should not use plutonium to make more plutonium, when there is no safe way to dispose of it, and when using it subjects workers to its possible toxicity. What a legacy we leave for the generations to come!

What is worse is that this is done without taxpayers knowledge of the true costs, and with making a sham of democratic process. To deny hearings to residents around the three nuclear plants that would use MOX in the U.S. is a travesty of justice. To award contracts for production of MOX and irradiation of MOX fuel before the EIS is finalized and a record of decision is made, shows clearly that the DOE has rendered the NEPA process meaningless - that they are just going through the motions, and they do not even respect the taxpayers enough to go through all of them.

---- Kay Cumbow
 Board Member, Citizens For Alternatives to Chemical
 Contamination
 Co-Founder, Citizens For a Healthy Planet

My address is 15184 Dudley Road, Brown City MI, 48416

I will send a written copy, signed in the mail.

WR010

WR010-1

General SPD EIS and NEPA Process

DOE acknowledges the commentor's view that DOE has refused to hold public hearings in the communities of the potential reactor sites that would use the MOX fuel. During the 45-day public comment period on the *Supplement to the SPD Draft EIS*, DOE held a public hearing in Washington, D.C., on June 15, 1999, and invited comments. After careful consideration of its public involvement opportunities, including the availability of information and mechanisms to submit comments, DOE decided not to hold additional hearings on the *Supplement*. DOE provided other means for the public to express their concerns and provide comments: mail, a toll-free telephone and fax line, and the MD Web site. Also, at the invitation of South Carolina State Senator Phil Leventis, DOE attended and participated in a public hearing held on June 24, 1999, in Columbia, South Carolina. Moreover, interested parties would likely have the opportunity to submit additional comments during the NRC reactor license amendment process should the MOX approach be pursued per the SPD EIS ROD.

As stipulated in DOE's phased contract with DCS, until and depending on the decisions regarding facility siting and approach to surplus plutonium disposition are made and announced in the SPD EIS ROD, no substantive design work or construction can be started by DCS on the MOX facility. Should DOE decide to pursue the No Action Alternative or the immobilization-only approach, the contract with DCS would end. The contract is phased so that only nonsite-specific base contract studies and plans can be completed before the ROD is issued, and options that would allow construction and other work would be exercised by DOE if, and only if, the decision is made to pursue the MOX approach.

WR010-2

MOX Approach

DOE acknowledges the commentor's opposition to the MOX approach. 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. To this end, surplus plutonium would be subject to stringent control, and the MOX facility

would be built and operated subject to the following strict conditions: construction would take place at a secure DOE site, it would be owned by the U.S. Government, operations would be limited exclusively to the disposition of surplus plutonium, and the MOX facility would be shut down at the completion of the surplus plutonium disposition program. For reactor irradiation, the NRC license would authorize only the participating reactors to use MOX fuel fabricated from surplus plutonium, and the irradiation would be a once-through cycle with no reprocessing.

The environmental, safety and health consequences of the MOX approach in the proposed reactors are addressed in Section 4.28. Analyses in Chapter 4 of Volume I for construction and normal operation of the proposed surplus plutonium disposition facilities at the DOE candidate sites indicate there would be no discernible contamination to drinking water, either from the deposition of minute quantities of airborne contaminants into small water bodies or from potential wastewater releases. Therefore, it is estimated that no measurable component of the public dose would be attributable to liquid pathways. Further, because the candidate sites are located in Idaho, South Carolina, Texas, and Washington, the chances of the Great Lakes being affected are remote.

NUCLEAR-FREE GREAT LAKES ACTION CAMP
KEVIN KAMPS
PAGE 1 OF 2

Monday, June 14, 1999

Dear U.S. D.O.E. officials,

People in the Great Lakes region – in the U.S. and Canada – are very opposed to the use of weapons plutonium in commercial reactors. For years, citizens on both sides of the border have rallied together to stop even the Los Alamos to Chalk River test shipment of MOX from passing through our region. This should have served loud notice of our strong opposition to the entire proposed MOX program. Such citizen pressure has moved politicians at all levels of government – from county commissions to a U.S. Senator – and from different parties (from Democratic U.S. Representatives to Republican Governors) to take stands against the test shipment as well.

From this international, grassroots network-building has sprung the Nuclear-Free Great Lakes Action Camp, taking place this August on the Lake Michigan shoreline in southwest Michigan. Concerned citizens groups from Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Ontario have joined forces to organize this week-long event. Hundreds from throughout the region and across the country will attend, representing the environmental, peace, justice, human rights, and indigenous peoples movements, scientists, and government officials who recognize that MOX is a significant concern to their constituencies. People who have struggled for abolition of nuclear weapons will join with opponents of nuclear power to present a unified front against the proposed MOX program.

Preventing MOX fuel from being transported through or used anywhere in the Great Lakes basin – such as at the Bruce reactors in Ontario on northern Lake Huron – is a top goal of the Action Camp. Representatives from the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research and Nuclear Information and Resource Service in the U.S., and from the Canadian Coalition for Nuclear Responsibility and the Nuclear Awareness Project in Canada, will lead the discussion among the concerned citizens gathered from both countries. Out of that democratic process, a strong opposition to MOX will emerge. Participants will return home to their communities in the U.S. and Canada educated about the many dangers of MOX, and equipped with training to launch campaigns against MOX in their own areas.

The Great Lakes resistance to MOX is networked with resistance in other regions of the U.S. and Canada, as well as with Russia and other countries overseas. This grassroots movement is building.

Our network will reunite in September, 1999, at the International Joint Commission biannual meeting in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Our international coalition will commend the IJC for listing radionuclides as persistent toxins for which zero discharge into the Great Lakes should be allowed. MOX could lead to a higher risk of a catastrophic nuclear disaster, for the reactors are aged and were never designed for its use. Such a catastrophe would be significantly worse than before, for the MOX would contain so much plutonium. Then there are the dangers of transporting MOX to reactors, and storage at or transport away from the reactors of the high-level wastes containing larger quantities of plutonium. For these reasons and others, we will urge the IJC to oppose MOX, for MOX threatens the Great Lakes, which the IJC is mandated to protect.

So aptly named for the God of the Dead, plutonium is one of the most carcinogenic poisons known, and can of course yield the ultimate weapons of mass destruction. Thus, it must be isolated from the biosphere and safeguarded from reuse in weapons, not unleashed in vast quantities onto the roads and rails, and scattered across the continent in reactors and processing plants. To save time, to save money – and, so much more importantly – to protect the environment and public health, and to genuinely safeguard against nuclear weapons proliferation, immobilization of surplus weapons plutonium and isolation from the living environment is the way to go, not the misdirected MOX proposal. The Great Lakes are a precious source of life to tens of millions of people and countless other forms of life. Concerned citizens organizations in the U.S. and Canada stand ready to protect the Great Lakes basin from the grave threats posed by MOX.

Sincerely, *Kevin Kamps*

Kevin Kamps
Southwest Michigan organizer
Nuclear-Free Great Lakes Action Camp
P.O. Box 50814
Kalamazoo, MI 49005

P.S. Why are you not holding hearings in our region, where we are so concerned and would be so significantly impacted by the use of MOX at the Bruce Reactors on Lake Huron? Plutonium decisions should not be plutocratic!

DCR015

DCR015-1

MOX Approach

DOE acknowledges the commentator's opposition to the MOX 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 transportation of weapons-usable fissile materials through Michigan is beyond the scope of the proposed action analyzed in this SPD EIS. Shipments of a small quantity of MOX fuel from LANL to Canada were part of a separate proposed action. DOE has prepared an *Environmental Assessment for the Parallel Project Fuel Manufacture and Shipment* (DOE/EA-1216, January 1999) and FONSI, signed August 13, 1999, on fabrication of the MOX fuel and its transportation to Canada. This EA and FONSI can be viewed on the MD Web site at <http://www.doe-md.com>.

The commercial reactors selected for the MOX approach include only those reactors whose operational life is expected to last beyond the life of the surplus plutonium disposition program. Furthermore, although no U.S. commercial reactors are licensed to use plutonium-based fuel, several are designed to use MOX fuel, and others can easily and safely accommodate a partial MOX core.

The environmental, safety and health consequences of the MOX approach at the proposed reactors are addressed in Section 4.28. In addition, NRC would evaluate license applications and monitor the operations of both the MOX facility and domestic, commercial reactors selected to use MOX fuel, to ensure adequate margins of safety.

DCR015-2

General SPD EIS and NEPA Process

DOE acknowledges the commentator's request regarding public hearings in the Michigan region. The irradiation of MOX fuel as discussed in the *Supplement to the SPD Draft EIS* involves proposed reactors located in

North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia, and not the use of the Canadian Bruce reactors. DOE held a public hearing in Washington, D.C., on June 15, 1999, and invited comments. After careful consideration of its public involvement opportunities, including the availability of information and mechanisms to submit comments, DOE decided not to hold additional hearings on the *Supplement*. DOE provided other means for the public to express their concerns and provide comments: mail, a toll-free telephone and fax line, and the MD Web site.

In the *Storage and Disposition PEIS* ROD, DOE retained the option to use some of the surplus plutonium as MOX fuel in reactors (e.g., the Bruce reactors), which would have only been undertaken in the event that a multilateral agreement were negotiated among Russia, Canada, and the United States. Since the SPD Draft EIS was issued, DOE determined that adequate reactor capacity is available in the United States to disposition the portion of the U.S. surplus plutonium that is suitable for MOX fuel and, therefore, while still reserving the CANDU option, DOE is not actively pursuing it. However, DOE, in cooperation with Canada and Russia, proposes to participate in a test and demonstration program using U.S. and Russian MOX fuel in a Canadian test reactor. This action is addressed in the *Environmental Assessment for the Paralex Project Fuel Manufacture and Shipment* (DOE/EA-1216, January 1999) and FONSI, signed August 13, 1999. If Russia and Canada agree to disposition Russian surplus plutonium in CANDU reactors in order to augment Russia's disposition capability, shipments of the Russian MOX fuel would take place directly between Russia and Canada.



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF PORT HURON
100 MCMORRAN BOULEVARD, PORT HURON, MICHIGAN 48060
PHONE: 810-984-9740; FAX: 810-982-0282

1999-006595 MAY 3P 4:12

April 29, 1999

Fredrico Pena, Secretary
Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Mr. Pena:

I have enclosed Resolution #9 adopted by the City Council of the City of Port Huron, in opposition to the transportation and use of warhead plutonium throughout the Great Lakes Basin.

Please ensure this resolution of forwarded to the appropriate department so that our objection is officially noted.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Steven G. Miller".

Steven G. Miller
Mayor

SGM/rch

MR002

Resolution #9
April 26, 1999

Councilmember Samle-Wynn offered and moved the adoption of the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Energy has developed a plan to "dispose" of a large portion of the Soviet and U. S. stockpile of fissile materials (weapons-grade plutonium and highly enriched uranium) and, in particular, by producing MOX which is weapons grade plutonium mixed with uranium oxide; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Energy, along with Russia, plans to transport and test MOX at Chalk River, Canada, with the eventual plan to transport much larger amounts for many years for use in CANDU reactors, including the Bruce reactors on Lake Huron; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes Basin contains one-fifth of the world's fresh water and 95% of the United States' fresh water, provides drinking water to 40 million residents, provides a safe place to live, work and recreate, and provides a home to diverse and unique wildlife and plants; and

WHEREAS, the unplanned release of plutonium as a result of a traffic or shipping accident or terrorist attack could have considerable consequences to the Great Lakes Basin; and

WHEREAS, due to a public outcry in 1998, the Blue Water Bridge was successfully removed from the proposed MOX test routes;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Port Huron City Council opposes any and all tests in the Great Lakes Basin of Russian and U. S. warhead plutonium converted to MOX that are planned by the United States Department of Energy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Port Huron City Council opposes the transportation and use of warhead plutonium converted to MOX throughout the Great Lakes Basin; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the United States Department of Energy Office of Fissile Materials Disposition and each of our appropriate federal and state elected officials.

ADOPTED/~~REJECTED~~ UNANIMOUSLY

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Port Huron City Council at its regular meeting of April 26, 1999.



Pauline M. Repp, CMC/AAE
City Clerk

MR002

MR002-1

MOX Approach

DOE acknowledges the commentators' opposition to the transportation and use of weapons-usable plutonium in MOX fuel. In the *Storage and Disposition PEIS* ROD, DOE retained the option to use some of the surplus plutonium as MOX fuel in CANDU reactors, which would have only been undertaken in the event that a multilateral agreement were negotiated among Russia, Canada, and the United States. Since the SPD Draft EIS was issued, DOE determined that adequate reactor capacity is available in the United States to disposition the portion of the U.S. surplus plutonium that is suitable for MOX fuel and, therefore, while still reserving the CANDU option, DOE is not actively pursuing it. However, DOE, in cooperation with Canada and Russia, proposes to participate in a test and demonstration program using U.S. and Russian MOX fuel in a Canadian test reactor. This action is addressed in the *Environmental Assessment for the Parallax Project Fuel Manufacture and Shipment* (DOE/EA-1216, January 1999) and FONSI, signed August 13, 1999. If Russia and Canada agree to disposition Russian surplus plutonium in CANDU reactors in order to augment Russia's disposition capability, shipments of the Russian MOX fuel would take place directly between Russia and Canada.

