

I am writing because I am deeply concerned about the potential deleterious effects posed by the options you are considering concerning the disposal of plutonium. The MOX option would threaten the health of many. The immobilization option is much more sound. Please analyze both options carefully and come to a responsible decision. Thank you.

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Alternatives

DOE acknowledges the commentator's opposition to the MOX approach to surplus plutonium disposition. DOE has identified as its preferred alternative 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.

DOE and NRC are committed to protecting the health and safety of the public. This includes designing, constructing, and operating DOE- and NRC-regulated facilities (e.g., domestic, commercial reactors) in such a way as to continually provide a level of safety and reliability that meets or exceeds established standards. DOE and commercial reactors also have plans and programs for the safe management and ultimate disposal of their nuclear waste.

The Human Health Risk sections presented in Chapter 4 of Volume I discuss the applicable human health risks associated with all alternatives considered. Decisions on the surplus plutonium disposition program will be based on environmental analyses (including analyses of human health risks), technical and cost reports, national policy and nonproliferation considerations, and public input.

