

TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION
EARL C. LEMING
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STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION
DOE OVERSIGHT DIVISION
761 EMORY VALLEY ROAD
OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE 37830-7072

May 26, 1999

DOE, Office of Fissile Materials Disposition
c/o Supplement to the SPD EIS
PO Box 23786
Washington DC 2006-3786

Dear Sirs

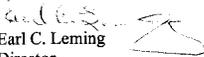
**DOCUMENT REVIEW: Supplemental to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement,
"Surplus Plutonium Disposition," DOE/EIS-0283-D, July 1998**

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, DOE Oversight Division (TDEC/DOE-O) has reviewed the above Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and has the following comment.

The Department wishes to again note that there are quantities of plutonium in the form of TRU waste, contaminated equipment, spent fuel, and working inventory still present on the Oak Ridge Reservation. Although not considered surplus, this plutonium will require final disposition and should be addressed by DOE in the near future. In addition, project plans should ensure that post irradiation examination of MOX fuel at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory does not contribute to the Oak Ridge Reservation waste inventory.

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Sincerely


Earl C. Leming
Director

xc: Justin Wilson – Governor's Policy Office
Jim Hall – DOE
Ed Cumesty - DOE
Dodd Galbreath – TDEC

EI460.99

MR006

MR006-1

Other

Most of the plutonium stored at ORR is in the form of waste. Approximately 600 g (21 oz) of plutonium 238 (not weapons-usable) has been declared excess and is being held in storage at ORNL awaiting transfer for use in the space program. Approximately 780 g (28 oz) of other plutonium isotopes have been repackaged and are awaiting transfer to LLNL. The scope of this SPD EIS includes alternatives for the disposition of weapons-usable plutonium declared surplus to U.S. defense needs. Other radioactive materials, wastes and spent nuclear fuel that contain plutonium are beyond the scope of this SPD EIS. Alternatives for management of radioactive and hazardous wastes were evaluated in 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). RODs for TRU, hazardous and high-level waste have been issued; RODs for low-level and mixed low-level waste are expected shortly. Alternatives for management of spent nuclear fuel were evaluated in the *Programmatic Spent Nuclear Fuel Management and Idaho National Engineering Laboratory Environmental Restoration and Waste Management Programs Final EIS* (DOE/EIS-0203-F, April 1995). RODs for this EIS were issued in May 1995, and March 1996. Transportation and disposal of TRU waste are evaluated in the *WIPP Disposal Phase Final Supplemental EIS* (DOE/EIS-0026-S-2, September 1997). A ROD for the WIPP EIS was issued in January 1998. Transportation and disposal of spent nuclear fuel are evaluated in the *Draft EIS for a Geologic Repository for the Disposal of Spent Nuclear Fuel and High Level Radioactive Waste at Yucca Mountain, Nye County, Nevada* (DOE/EIS-0250D, July 1999). A ROD has not been issued for the *Yucca Mountain EIS*.

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Waste Management

As discussed in the revised Section 1.6, DOE prefers ORNL for postirradiation examination activities. ORNL has the existing facilities and staff expertise needed to perform postirradiation examination as a matter of its routine activities; no major modifications to facilities or processing capabilities would be required. In addition, ORNL is about 500 km (300 mi) from the reactor site that would irradiate the fuel. Section 4.27 was revised to include analyses of potential waste management impacts at ORNL.

Comment Documents and Responses on the Supplement—Tennessee

