

CATHOLIC WORKER HOUSE OF HOSPITALITY
DON TIMMERMAN
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CATHOLIC WORKER HOUSE
OF HOSPITALITY

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US Dept. of Energy
Office of Fissile Materials Disposition
PO Box 23786
Washington DC 20026-3786

6-8-99

Dear Friends,

There is no real reason for dealing with deadly plutonium. There are alternative sources of energy that can be used for our energy. One of the problems is that corporations cannot make money on these alternative sources of energy. This, of course, is the reason why we do not ~~develop~~ ^{exploit} these sources.

The problem with radioactive waste, the product of plutonium, is that we still do not have a safe and adequate way of storing the waste. We are not leaving much of a future for our children and their children with this constant use of plutonium as a source of energy.

Unless we take the time, effort and cost of using alternative forms of energy other than plutonium there will be a slow and painful death for most Americans. You have the choice. You either give in to the corporations and continue to use plutonium or help to save lives with alternative sources of energy.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Don Timmerman

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MR004

MR004-1

Purpose and Need

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. Use of MOX fuel is not proposed as an alternative energy source nor in order to subsidize the commercial nuclear power industry.

The issue of spending the time and resources to develop alternative forms of energy is beyond the scope of this SPD EIS.

MR004-2

Repositories

This SPD EIS assumes, for the purposes of analysis, that Yucca Mountain, Nevada, would be the final disposal site for all immobilized plutonium and MOX spent fuel. As directed by the U.S. Congress through the NWPAs, as amended, Yucca Mountain is the only candidate site currently being characterized as a potential geologic repository for HLW and spent fuel. DOE has prepared a separate EIS, *Draft Environmental Impact Statement 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), which analyzes the environmental impacts from construction, operation and monitoring, related transportation, and eventual closure of a potential geologic repository. The immobilized plutonium and MOX spent fuel are included in the inventory analyzed in that draft EIS should the decision be made to proceed with the hybrid or immobilization-only approaches.

