

Chapter 2

Written Comments and DOE Responses

Commentor No. 1154: R. T. Hirano

NUCLEAR INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT



Draft PEIS Comment Form

We need the FFTF, please restart it. As a taxpayer we don't need political arguments. It might be slightly different design factor in another state at billions of dollars to us. Let's get on with it!!

1154-1

There are several ways to provide comments on the Nuclear Infrastructure PEIS. These include:

- attending public meetings and giving your comments directly to DOE officials
returning this comment form to the registration desk at the meeting or to the address below
calling toll-free and leaving your comments: 1-877-562-4593
faxing your comments toll-free to: 1-877-562-4592
commenting via e-mail: NuclearInfrastructure-PEIS@hq.doe.gov

Name (optional): R. T. Hirano

Organization:

Home/Organization Address (circle one):

1842 Hankstone

City: Richland State: WV Zip Code: 25352

Telephone (optional):

E-mail (optional):

COMMENTS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY September 11, 2000

For more information contact: Colette E. Brown, NE-50
U.S. Department of Energy • 19901 Germantown Road • Germantown, MD 20874
Toll-free Telephone: 1-877-562-4593 • Toll-free Fax: 1-877-562-4592
E-mail: NuclearInfrastructure-PEIS@hq.doe.gov



7/12/00

Response to Commentor No. 1154

1154-1: DOE notes the commentor's support for Alternative 1, Restart FFTF, and opposition to Alternative 4, Construct New Research Reactor. It should be noted that if Alternative 4 were selected in the Record of Decision, it could be built at any DOE site.

Commentor No. 1155: Duane H. Freeborn

Cellette E. Brown
NE 50 Dept. of Energy
19901 Germantown Rd.
Germantown, MD 20874

6675 SW Whitham Ct.
Benton, OR 97008
September 8, 2000

Dear Ms. Brown,

I'm writing to express my utter dismay that the question of starting FFTF is still being debated. We hot papers have been fighting the enormous bill to keep this aging reactor on standby status for too long already. It should be shut down permanently. What we really don't need in this area (Portland) is more nuclear waste when the job is done with existing, even more dangerous & waste-riches toward the Columbia River. (It may well already be a "hot" mine....)

I don't feel like the DOE has handled with the people about this issue. Medical isotopes can be secured from other areas; plutonium can be secured, and is already contracted for, from Russia.

Cleaning up Hanford's present waste is of the utmost importance. Living in the Portland area, this is a crucial health concern. Don't create more waste and waste-shut down FFTF.

Sincerely yours,

Duane H Freeborn

1155-1

1155-2

1155-3

1155-2

1155-1

Response to Commentor No. 1155

- 1155-1: DOE notes the commentor's support for Alternative 5, Permanently Deactivate FFTF.
- 1155-2: DOE notes the commentor's concerns regarding the existing cleanup mission at Hanford. Although beyond the scope of this NI PEIS, ongoing Hanford cleanup activities are high priority to DOE. Hanford Site environmental restoration activities are conducted in accordance with the Tri-Party Agreement (i.e., Washington State Department of Ecology, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Department of Energy). This agreement specifies milestones and schedules for restoration of all parts of the Hanford Site. DOE is fully committed to honoring this agreement.

FFTF is approximately 4.5 miles from the Columbia River. There are no discharges to the river from FFTF and no radioactive or hazardous discharges to groundwater. As indicated in analyses presented in Chapter 4 of Volume 1 (e.g., Sections 4.3.1.1.4, 4.3.3.1.4, 4.4.3.1.4, 4.5.3.2.4, and 4.6.3.2.4), there would be no discernible impacts to groundwater or surface water quality at Hanford from operation of Hanford facilities that would support the nuclear infrastructure missions described in Section 1.2 of Volume 1. No food or water restrictions are current in place outside the Hanford site as a result of Hanford activities.

- 1155-3: The United States currently purchases approximately 90 percent of its medical isotopes from foreign producers, most notably Canada. However, Canada only supplies a limited number of economically attractive commercial isotopes (primarily Molybdenum-99), and it does not supply research isotopes or the diverse array of medical and industrial isotopes considered in the NI PEIS. As such, reliance on Canadian sources of isotopes to satisfy projected U.S. isotope needs would not meet DOE's mission requirements. Section 1.2.1 of Volume 1 has been revised to clarify DOE's isotope production role and other producers' capabilities to fulfill U.S. isotope needs.

DOE could purchase plutonium-238 from Russia; however, for supply reliability reasons and concern of nuclear nonproliferation, DOE's preference is to establish a domestic plutonium-238 production capability. Section 1.2.2 of Volume 1 was revised to further clarify the purpose and need for reestablishing a domestic plutonium-238 production capability to support NASA space exploration missions.

Commentor No. 1156: Martin Wester

Response to Commentor No. 1156

Draft PEIS Comment Form

I would like to see
our local communities better
themselves through FFE medically
& business would thrive from this.

Also as a tax payer, I under-
stand the trade imbargo for
medical cancer would improve health
& economy.

The U.S.A. & Tri-city area of WA
would both excel with FFE.

Thank-you for your time
& sorry for my writing.

Martin Wester

1156-1

1156-1: DOE notes the commentor's support for Alternative 1, Restart FFE.

There are several ways to provide comments on the Nuclear Infrastructure PEIS. These include:

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- faxing your comments toll-free to: 1-877-562-4592
- commenting via e-mail: Nuclear.Infrastructure-PEIS@hq.doe.gov

Name (optional): Martin Wester

Organization: Concerned Citizen

Home/Organization Address (circle one): 510 Goethals Dr

City: Richland State: WA Zip Code: 99352

Telephone (optional): (509) 544-7714

E-mail (optional): mar2204@attglobal.net

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U.S. Department of Energy • 19901 Germantown Road • Germantown, MD 20874
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E-mail: NuclearInfrastructure-PEIS@hq.doe.gov



NUCLEAR INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT





Draft PEIS Comment Form

For Alt 1 - Restart FFTC
This multifaceted reactor is well suited for this host of missions.
It now to restart FFTC before further reductions in FFTC specific knowledge is lost due to personnel moving on to new jobs or retiring due to the extended Standby period.

1157-1

1157-1: DOE notes the commentor's support for Alternative 1, Restart FFTC.

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faxing your comments toll-free to: 1-877-562-4592
commenting via e-mail: Nuclear.Infrastructure-PEIS@hq.doe.gov

Name (optional): Darrell Severance

Organization:

Home/Organization Address (circle one): 1507 S Quillen St

City: Kennewick State: WA Zip Code: 99338

Telephone (optional):

E-mail (optional):

COMMENTS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY September 18, 2000

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U.S. Department of Energy • 19901 Germantown Road • Germantown, MD 20874
Toll-free telephone: 1-877-562-4593 • Toll-free Fax: 1-877-562-4592
E-mail: Nuclear.Infrastructure-PEIS@hq.doe.gov



7/12/00

Commentor No. 1158: Susanna Kraft

NI PEIS Toll_Free Telephone

9/11/00

Susanna Kraft
6105 79th Ave SE
Mercer Island, WA 98040

I just wanted to make it clear that I prefer Option #5 to permanently deactivate FFTF with no new missions.

1158-1

Response to Commentor No. 1158

1158-1: DOE notes the commentor's support for Alternative 5, Permanently Deactivate FFTF.

Commentor No. 1159: Anonymous (Cont'd)

Response to Commentor No. 1159

living near nuclear facilities, including the Hanford Site. Cancers are believed to be caused by a combination of hereditary and environmental factors, including radiological and chemical agents. In ongoing clinical testing, therapeutic radioisotopes have proven effective in treating cancers and other illnesses while minimizing adverse side effects, making their use an attractive alternative to traditional chemotherapy and radiation treatments.

1159-4: See response to comment 1159-1.

1159-5: DOE notes the commentor's interest in alternative energy sources, although issues of research and development of alternative energy sources are beyond the scope of this Nuclear Infrastructure PEIS.

1159-6: The commentor appears to express the concern that DOE would expose people in the Puget Sound area to risks associated with the transport of neptunium and plutonium. None of the proposed alternatives involve the shipment of any neptunium to the Puget Sound area. Alternative 1 does postulate that DOE might decide at some point to import mixed oxide fuel from Europe to fuel FFTF. At this time, however, DOE has not proposed to import this fuel through any specific port. If DOE ultimately decides to import fuel from Europe, it would perform a separate NEPA analysis to select a port. This review would address all relevant potential impacts of overseas and inland water transportation, shipboard fires, package handling, land transportation, as well as safeguards and security associated with the import of SNR-300 mixed oxide fuel through a variety of specific candidate ports on the east and west coasts. It would consider all public comments, including local resolutions, concerning the desirability of bringing mixed oxide fuel into the proposed alternative ports. In the event that DOE decides to enhance its nuclear infrastructure, it would not expose any population to high, unacceptable risks under any alternative. Any transportation activities that would be conducted by DOE would comply with U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission and U.S. Department of Transportation regulations. Associated transatlantic shipment would comply with International Atomic Energy Agency requirements. In Section J.6.2, DOE reviewed the potential maximum impacts from the marine transportation of mixed oxide fuel from Europe to a representative military port, Charleston, South Carolina, and overland transportation to Hanford. Also

Commentor No. 1159: Anonymous (Cont'd)

Response to Commentor No. 1159

in that section, a bounding analysis demonstrates that the maximum potential radiological risks to the surrounding public from mixed oxide fuel shipments would be extremely small (e.g., less than 1 chance in a trillion for a latent cancer fatality per shipment from severe accidents at docks and in channels and less than 1 chance in 50 billion for a latent cancer fatality per shipment from overland highway accidents).

Commentor No. 1160: Martha A. Plonk

Draft PEIS Comment Form

We need FFTE. Please restart it. The facility can produce isotopes for medical research and therapy. At present I understand we are 90% dependent on foreign sources for these isotopes.

I repeat please help and use East Flag Test Facility we need our facility.

1160-1

Response to Commentor No. 1160

1160-1: DOE notes the commentor's support for Alternative 1, Restart FFTE. The commentor is correct in noting that the United States currently purchases approximately 90 percent of its medical radioisotopes from foreign producers, most notably Canada. However, supplies of many research isotopes are not readily available from existing domestic or foreign sources, causing a number of medical research programs to be terminated, deferred, or seriously delayed. Under the NI PEIS proposed action and consistent with its mandates under the Atomic Energy Act, DOE would enhance its existing nuclear facility infrastructure to, among other things, more effectively support production of radioisotopes for medical applications and research. Section 1.2.1 of Volume 1 has been revised to clarify DOE's isotope production role and other producers' capabilities to fulfill U.S. isotope needs.

NUCLEAR INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT



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- faxing your comments toll-free to: 1-877-562-4592
- commenting via e-mail: Nuclear.Infrastructure-PEIS@hq.doe.gov

Name (optional): Martha A. Plonk

Organization: Private citizen

Home Organization Address (circle one): 1001 Phelps Road
Kings Mountain, N.C. 2

City: Kings Mountain State: NC Zip Code: 28056

Telephone (optional): (704) 739-6540

E-mail (optional): none

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 U.S. Department of Energy • 19931 Germantown Road • Germantown, MD 20874
 Toll-free Telephone: 1-877-562-4593 • Toll-free Fax: 1-877-562-4592
 E-mail: Nuclear.Infrastructure-PEIS@hq.doe.gov



Commentor No. 1161: Pat Dunn

Response to Commentor No. 1161

Sheet 101m

we need FFTE
Please restart it.

1161-1

1161-1: DOE notes the commentor's support for Alternative 1, Restart FFTE.

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- faxing your comments toll-free to: 1-877-562-4592
- commenting via e-mail: Nuclear.Infrastructure-FEIS@hq.doe.gov

Name (optional): Pat Dunn

Organization: _____

Home/Organization Address (circle one): 106 Kori Ln

City: Brown wood, State: TX Zip Code: 76801

Telephone (optional): _____

E-mail (optional): _____

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E-mail: NuclearInfrastructure-FEIS@hq.doe.gov



7/12/00

Commentor No. 1162: Lourdes Fernandez

Draft PEIS Comment Form

I believe FFTF provides significant benefit to the advance of medical research. Please support this project.

Thank you.

1162-1

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calling toll-free and leaving your comments: 1-877-562-4593
faxing your comments toll-free to: 1-877-562-4592
commenting via e-mail: Nuclear.Infrastructure-PEIS@hq.doe.gov

Name (optional): Lourdes Fernandez

Organization:

Home/Organization Address (circle one): 408 Scot St

City: Richland State: WA Zip Code: 99352

Telephone (optional):

E-mail (optional): the 97 @ concentric .net

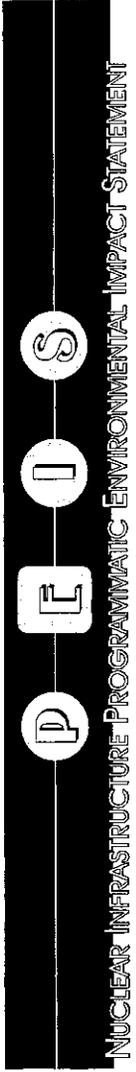
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For more information contact: Collette E. Brown, NE-50 U.S. Department of Energy • 19901 Germantown Road • Germantown, MD 20874



Response to Commentor No. 1162

1162-1: DOE notes the commentor's support for Alternative 1, Restart FFTF.



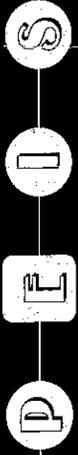
Commentor No. 1164: Edward A. and D. S. Maddox

Draft PEIS Comment Form

YES FOR: NFFTE

1164-1

NUCLEAR INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT



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- faxing your comments toll-free to: 1-877-562-4592
- commenting via e-mail: Nuclear.Infrastructure.PEIS@hq.doe.gov

Name (optional): EDWARD A. & D. S. MADDOX

Organization: LANDSCAPE DESIGNER

Home/Organization Address (circle one): ENVIRONMENT 21

City: BEND State: OR Zip Code: 97701

Telephone (optional): 388-2830

E-mail (optional):

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7/12/00

Response to Commentor No. 1164

1164-1: DOE notes the commentor's support for Alternative 1, Restart FFTE.

Commentor No. 1165: Susan and Dean Johnson

Response to Commentor No. 1165

Draft PEIS Comment Form

NUCLEAR INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT



We support the restart of FFTF. It will provide a crucial benefit to medical treatments. To not re-start it would be a giant step backwards & a major blow to medical therapy throughout the world. This would be unacceptable to us. We need FFTF - please restart it.

1165-1

1165-1: DOE notes the commentor's support for Alternative 1, Restart FFTF.

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faxing your comments toll-free to: 1-877-562-4592
commenting via e-mail: Nuclear.Infrastructure.PEIS@hq.doe.gov

Name (optional): Susan & Dean Johnson

Organization:

Home/Organization Address (circle one): 2316 Latipreal St, Richland, WA

City: State: Zip Code: 99352

Telephone (optional): 375-3205

E-mail (optional): deansw@3-ctis.com

COMMENTS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY September 11, 2000

For more information contact: Collette E. Brown, NE-50 U.S. Department of Energy • 19001 Germantown Road • Germantown, MD 20874



7/12/00

Commentor No. 1166: Darryl Bullington

Draft PEIS Comment Form

SEPT 7 2000

PERSONAL COMMUNICATION WITH A RESEARCHER AT ARGONNE NATIONAL LABORATORY REVEALED THAT METALLIC URANIUM FUEL IS DIMENSIONALLY UNSTABLE UNDER IRRADIATION.

IT APPEARS LITTLE HAS BEEN LEARNED FROM 50+ YEARS OF IRRADIATION STUDIES AS YOU ARE NOW BASING RESTART OF THE FFTF UPON USING HIGHLY ENRICHED URANIUM FUEL FOR FOURTEEN TO TWENTY-NINE YEARS (PAGE 9-13).

I URGE YOU TO PERMANENTLY DEACTIVATE THE FFTF (WITH NO NEW MISSIONS) AND TO PRODUCE NO MORE IRRADIATED FUELS AT THE SITE.

1166-1

1166-1: Metallic uranium nuclear fuel has been successfully used in power and research nuclear reactors worldwide for over 40 years. The nuclear fuel which would be used at FFTF is mixed oxide fuel until the available supply has been exhausted. Then, the fuel would be switched to highly enriched uranium (HEU) for years 22 to 35 (a period of 13 years). DOE has been safely using HEU in its research reactors for years; however, HEU would be used only if it is determined that low enriched uranium (LEU) is not technically feasible.

1166-2

1166-2: DOE notes the commentor's support for Alternative 5, Permanently Deactivate FFTF. The generation and disposition of spent nuclear fuel is analyzed in Section 4.3.1.1.14 of Volume 1 of the NI PEIS.

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- commenting via e-mail: Nuclear.Infrastructure-PEIS@hq.doe.gov

Name (optional): DARRYL BULLINGTON

Organization: _____

Home/Organization Address (circle one): 610 SOUTH MILROY ST

City: OLYMPIA State: WA Zip Code: 98502-5126

Telephone (optional): (360) 352 0625

E-mail (optional): _____

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 E-mail: Nuclear.Infrastructure-PEIS@hq.doe.gov



7/12/00

NUCLEAR INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT



Commentor No. 1167: Debra Pennington Davis

Response to Commentor No. 1167

Draft PEIS Comment Form

Please do not restart the Fast Flux Test Facility at Hanford. Hanford cleanup must remain a priority. The site is too contaminated to make further production a responsible possibility!

1167-1

1167-1: DOE notes the commentor's opposition to Alternative 1, Restart FFTF.

1167-2

1167-2: DOE notes the commentor's concerns regarding the existing cleanup mission at Hanford. Although beyond the scope of this NI PEIS, ongoing Hanford cleanup activities are high priority to DOE. Hanford Site environmental restoration activities are conducted in accordance with the Tri-Party Agreement (i.e., Washington State Department of Ecology, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Department of Energy). This agreement specifies milestones and schedules for restoration of all parts of the Hanford Site. DOE is fully committed to honoring this agreement.

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- faxing your comments toll-free to: 1-877-562-4592
- commenting via e-mail: NuclearInfrastructure-PEIS@hq.doe.gov

Name (optional): Debra Pennington Davis

Organization: _____

Home/Organization Address (circle one): PO Box 593

Bingen, WA 98605

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone (optional): _____

E-mail (optional): _____

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7/12/00

NUCLEAR INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT



Commentor No. 1168: George Taylor

Draft PEIS Comment Form

I support the selection of the FFTF as the preferred alternative to meet the pressing needs of the United States for research and medical isotopes

1168-1

Response to Commentor No. 1168

1168-1: DOE notes the commentor's support for Alternative 1, Restart FFTF.

NUCLEAR INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT



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- commenting via e-mail: Nuclear.Infrastructure-PEIS@hq.doe.gov

Name (optional): George Taylor

Organization:

Home/Organization Address (circle one): 159 N. Bishop Ave.

City: Clifton Heights State: PA Zip Code: 19018

Telephone (optional): 610-623-7383

E-mail (optional):

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Commentor No. 1169: Del Greenfield

495 N.W. Greenleaf Rd.
Portland OR 97109
September 6, 2000

Dear Colette Brown:

We urge the USDOE to stop the restart of FFTF and to close down the plant that is costing us citizens millions of dollars annually just to keep it open.

We don't need it. We don't want it. And it adds more nuclear waste that we can't get rid of.

Isn't it time your department started working for the people and not for the corporations that just want to make money? We don't consider these corporations to be patriotic!

Please respond.

Sincerely, Del Greenfield
Love Greenfield

Response to Commentor No. 1169

1169-1

1169-1: DOE notes the commentor's opposition to Alternative 1, Restart FFTF, and support for Alternative 5, Permanently Deactivate FFTF.

1169-2

1169-2: DOE notes the commentor's concern regarding waste generation. The NI PEIS addressed the environmental impacts due to the treatment, storage, and disposal of the waste generated by the proposed action for all alternatives and alternative options. Waste minimization programs at each of the proposed sites are also addressed. These programs will be implemented for the alternative selected in the Record of Decision. The waste generated from any of the proposed alternatives in the NI PEIS will be managed (i.e., treated, stored and disposed) in a safe and environmentally protective manner and in compliance with all applicable Federal and state laws and regulations and applicable DOE orders.

1169-3

1169-3: DOE notes the commentor's viewpoint.

Commentor No. 1170: Tanja Ziegler
Nuclear Information Service

Nuclear Information Service

30 Westwood Road Southampton SO17 1DN Britain
 e-mail: nis@gn.apc.org tel. / fax: +44 (0)12380 664434

Colette E. Brown
 U.S. Department of Energy
 NE-50,
 19901 Germantown Road,
 Germantown,
 MD 20874-1290

Dear Colette E. Brown

7th September 2000

Re: DoE Plan for expanded production of Plu-238 for future space missions

I am writing to you to ask you to reconsider your plans for the establishment of new irradiation and processing facilities for Plu-238.

The plutonium production/fabrication process for space nuclear power missions has recently led to several worker contamination accidents. An expansion of production will only worsen the problem.

We are also concerned that increasing the number of launches of nuclear powered space devices from Cape Canaveral on rockets with a 10 % failure rate will only increase the possibility of a deadly mishap.

We believe NASA is not doing enough to develop alternative power sources. The European Space Agency (ESA) has now developed high-efficiency solar cells for deep space missions.

I am looking forward to your reply
 Yours sincerely

Tanja Ziegler

Response to Commentor No. 1170

1170-1

1170-1: DOE notes the commentor's opposition to the production of plutonium-238 concern for NASA's use of nuclear materials for space missions, and interest in the development of alternative energy sources for space missions, although issues such as NASA research priorities are beyond the scope of this PEIS. Through a Memorandum of Understanding with NASA, DOE provides radioisotope power systems, and the plutonium-238 that fuels them, for space missions that require or would be enhanced by their use. These radioisotope power systems have been used for almost 40 years, and have repeatedly demonstrated their performance, safety, and reliability in various NASA space missions. NASA establishes the need and requirements for space missions and undergoes a thorough NEPA evaluation for each launch.

1170-2

1170-2: Plutonium-238 processing facilities can be safely operated to support the nuclear infrastructure missions described in Section 1.2 of Volume 1. Sections 4.2-4.6 of Volume 1 provide the results of the evaluation of potential health impacts that would be expected to result from plutonium-238 processing, including normal operations and a spectrum of accidents that included severe accidents. The environmental analysis showed that the radiological and nonradiological risks associated with plutonium-238 processing would be small.

1170-1

Commentor No. 1174: David H. Read



TO:
 Colette Brown
 office of Space & Defense Power Systems
 (AE SO)
 USDOE
 19901 Germantown Rd
 Germantown MD 20874



Dear Secretary Richardson,

Please honor the Clean-Up Agreement and Shut Down the FFTF Nuclear Reactor:

*Responsible scientists tell me there
 is no need for the isotopes it would
 generate. Also, beyond the Clean-up:
 why is vitrification not being
 implemented?*

Sincerely,

Name David H. Read, Ph.D. Address 911-11th E.
 City Seattle State WA ZIP 98102

Please include my comments in the official record for the Pu-238/FFTF Environmental Impact Statement. Also, please respond to my comments and concerns.

Response to Commentor No. 1174

- 1174-1: With respect to waste management and cleanup issues, the Hanford Site environmental restoration activities are conducted in accordance with the Tri-Party Agreement (i.e. Washington State Department of Ecology, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Department of Energy). This agreement specifies milestones and schedules for restoration of all parts of the Hanford Site. DOE is fully committed to honoring this agreement.
- 1174-2: DOE notes the commentor's support for Alternative 5, Permanently Deactivate FFTF.
- 1174-3: DOE has sought independent analysis of trends in the use of medical isotopes, and of its continuing role in this sector, consistent with its mandates under the Atomic Energy Act. In doing so, it established two expert bodies, the Expert Panel and the NERAC. In 1998, the Expert Panel, which convened to forecast future demand for medical isotopes, estimated that the expected growth rate of medical isotope use during the next 20 years would range from 7 to 14 percent per year for therapeutic applications, and 7 to 16 percent per year for diagnostic applications. These findings were later reviewed and endorsed by NERAC, established in 1999 to provide DOE with expert, objective advice regarding the future form of its isotope research and production activities. DOE has adopted these growth projections as a planning tool for evaluating the potential capability of the existing nuclear facility infrastructure to meet programmatic requirements. In the period since the initial estimates were made, the actual growth of medical isotope use has tracked at levels consistent with the Expert Panel findings. Section 1.2.1 of Volume 1 was revised to incorporate this information and to clarify DOE's role in fulfilling the U.S. research and commercial isotope production needs.
- 1174-4: DOE notes the commentor's concerns regarding the existing cleanup mission at Hanford. Although beyond the scope of this NI PEIS, ongoing Hanford cleanup activities are high priority to DOE. Hanford Site environmental restoration activities are conducted in accordance with the Tri-Party Agreement (i.e., Washington State Department of Ecology, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Department of Energy). This agreement specifies milestones and schedules for restoration of all parts of the Hanford Site. DOE is fully committed to honoring this agreement. The schedule for vitrification of the high-level radioactive wastes currently stored in the high-level waste tanks is included in this agreement. Vitrification of these wastes is not within the scope of this NI PEIS.

Commentor No. 1175: Robert Reinhart



W.B. Sullivan
Cokette Brown
USDOE
19901 Germantown Rd
Germantown MD
20874



Dear Secretary Richardson,

Please honor the Clean-Up Agreement and Shut Down the FFTF Nuclear Reactor:

We do not need it. Doctors & Scientists say so. You must show independence from for profit operators.
Also, you must prove fidelity to the Hanford Clean-up agreements.
I am a supporter of you & the President.

Sincerely,

Thank you
Name: Robert Reinhart Address: #62 Salmon Beach
City: TACOMA State: WA ZIP: 98407

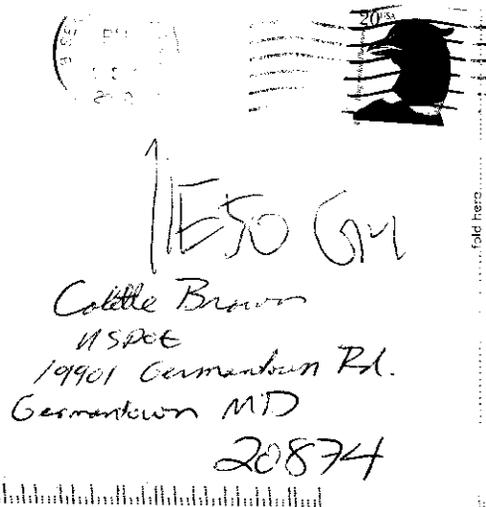
mpact

Response to Commentor No. 1175

- 1175-1: With respect to waste management and cleanup issues, the Hanford Site environmental restoration activities are conducted in accordance with the Tri-Party Agreement (i.e., Washington State Department of Ecology, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Department of Energy). This agreement specifies milestones and schedules for restoration of all parts of the Hanford Site. DOE is fully committed to honoring this agreement.
- 1175-2: DOE notes the commentor's support for Alternative 5, Permanently Deactivate FFTF.
- 1175-3: DOE has sought independent analysis of trends in the use of medical isotopes, and of its continuing role in this sector, consistent with its mandates under the Atomic Energy Act. In doing so, it established two expert bodies, the Expert Panel and the NERAC. In 1998, the Expert Panel, which convened to forecast future demand for medical isotopes, estimated that the expected growth rate of medical isotope use during the next 20 years would range from 7 to 14 percent per year for therapeutic applications, and 7 to 16 percent per year for diagnostic applications. These findings were later reviewed and endorsed by NERAC, established in 1999 to provide DOE with expert, objective advice regarding the future form of its isotope research and production activities. DOE has adopted these growth projections as a planning tool for evaluating the potential capability of the existing nuclear facility infrastructure to meet programmatic requirements. In the period since the initial estimates were made, the actual growth of medical isotope use has tracked at levels consistent with the Expert Panel findings. Section 1.2.1 of Volume 1 was revised to incorporate this information and to clarify DOE's role in fulfilling the U.S. research and commercial isotope production needs.
- 1175-4: DOE notes the commentor's viewpoint.

Commentor No. 1176: Mark Darienzo

Response to Commentor No. 1176



Dear Secretary Richardson,

Please honor the Clean-Up Agreement and Shut Down the FFTF Nuclear Reactor:

I'm against restart of the FFTF. Hanford
needs to be cleaned up and shut down.

Sincerely,

Name Mark Darienzo Address 1634 N. Alberta St
 City Portland State OR ZIP 97217

Please include my comments in the official record for the Pu-238/FFTF Environmental Impact Statement. Also, please respond to my comments and concerns.

- 1176-1
- 1176-2
- 1176-3
- 1176-1

- 1176-1: DOE notes the commentor's concerns regarding the existing cleanup mission at Hanford. Although beyond the scope of this NI PEIS, ongoing activities to remediate existing contamination at Hanford are high priority to DOE. The Hanford Site environmental restoration activities are conducted in accordance with the Tri-Party Agreement (i.e., Washington State Department of Ecology, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Department of Energy). This agreement specifies milestones and schedules for restoration of all parts of the Hanford Site. DOE is fully committed to honoring this agreement.
- 1176-2: DOE notes the commentor's support for Alternative 5, Permanently Deactivate FFTF, and opposition to Alternative 1, Restart FFTF.
- 1176-3: See response to comment 1176-2.

Commentor No. 1177: Christopher Wilson



NE 50

Collette Brown
USDOE
19401 Germantown Rd
Germantown MD
20874

Dear Secretary Richardson,

Please honor the Clean-Up Agreement and Shut Down the FFTF Nuclear Reactor:

The value of the FFTF for
production of medical isotopes and
other purposes is unclear and
its risk is quite clear.

Sincerely, *Chris Wilson*

Name *Christopher Wilson MD* Address *3832 43rd NE*

City *Seattle* State *WA* ZIP *98105*

Please include my comments in the official record for the Pu-238/FFTF Environmental Impact Statement. Also, please respond to my comments and concerns.

1177-1
1177-2
1177-3
1177-4

Response to Commentor No. 1177

1177-1: DOE notes the commentor's concerns regarding the existing cleanup mission at Hanford. Although beyond the scope of this NI PEIS, ongoing Hanford cleanup activities are high priority to DOE. Hanford Site environmental restoration activities are conducted in accordance with the Tri-Party Agreement (i.e., Washington State Department of Ecology, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Department of Energy). This agreement specifies milestones and schedules for restoration of all parts of the Hanford Site. DOE is fully committed to honoring this agreement.

1177-2: DOE notes the commentor's support for Alternative 5, Permanently Deactivate FFTF.

1177-3: DOE notes the commentor's views on restarting FFTF for expanding its existing nuclear facility infrastructure. Consistent with its mandates under the Atomic Energy Act, DOE is proposing this expansion for the purposes of addressing three primary needs:

- 1) to support the need for increased domestic production of isotopes for medical, research, and industrial uses, as initially identified by a panel of experts in the medical field and reaffirmed by the Nuclear Energy Research Advisory Committee;
- 2) to support future NASA space exploration missions by re establishing a domestic capability to produce plutonium-238, a fuel source that is required for deep space missions and which the U.S. has no long term, assured supply; and
- 3) to support civilian nuclear research and development needs in order to maintain the clean, safe, and reliable use of nuclear power as a viable component of the United States' energy portfolio. Section 1.2. of Volume was revised to clarify the purpose and need of the proposed action.

DOE acknowledges that the FFTF's large size and configuration is not particularly well suited for the singular purpose of producing small quantities of various research isotopes. However, sustained operation of the FFTF for the production of both research and commercial isotopes would be viable if operated in concert with producing plutonium-238 and conducting nuclear energy research and development for civilian applications. As the NERAC report states: "In limited instances, the DOE possesses unique resources, e.g., the high flux of fast neutrons and large irradiation volume in FFTF, that could be utilized for the production of some radioisotopes, but is best suited for commercial interests who

Commentor No. 1177: Christopher Wilson (Cont'd)

Response to Commentor No. 1177

might consider its use for isotope production”. In recognition of these constraints on its operational feasibility, the NI PEIS only evaluates use of the FFTF when coupled with the other proposed missions.

1177-4: FFTF can be safely operated to support the nuclear infrastructure missions described in Section 1.2 of Volume 1. Section 4.3 of Volume 1 provides the results of the evaluation of potential health impacts that would be expected to result from implementation of Alternative 1, including normal operations and a spectrum of accidents that included severe accidents. The environmental analysis showed that radiological and nonradiological risks associated with restarting FFTF would be small.

Commentor No. 1178: Will Vanatto

NI PEIS Toll_Free Telephone

9/11/00

Will Vanatto
Reality News Network
Palm Beach County, FL
561_833_7815

I am calling to voice my disgust with the notion that DOE is considering further production of plutonium_238, one of the most deadly substances known to man. There has been several accidents during the course of the last few decades with space exploration using 238; 10 percent of the launches meet with accidents.

1178-1

There has been many worker contamination incidents.

1178-2

NASA is doing next to nothing about solar exploration even though the European Space Agency has now developed high efficiency solar cells for deep space missions. NASA lied about the Galaxy probe not being able to use solar. It is unbelievable that you people can rationalize using nuclear power when we know it is going to poison the babies and future generation. It is completely disgusting, nothing is worth that. Please take off your scientist hat and put on your humanitarian hat and get with it. You people are mad scientists. You are destroying what little is left of this planet. There are more and more people finding out about it; we are educating them daily. Let's go, let's get with it, your careers are not worth the world. Thank you.

1178-1

Response to Commentor No. 1178

1178-1: DOE notes the commentor's concern for NASA's use of nuclear materials for space missions and interest in the development of alternative energy sources for space missions, although issues such as NASA research priorities are beyond the scope of this PEIS. Through a Memorandum of Understanding with NASA, DOE provides radioisotope power systems, and the plutonium-238 that fuels them, for space missions that require or would be enhanced by their use. These radioisotope power systems have been used for almost 40 years, and have repeatedly demonstrated their performance, safety, and reliability in various NASA space missions. NASA establishes the need and requirements for space missions and undergoes a thorough NEPA evaluation for each launch.

1178-2: The commentor's concern about worker contamination is noted. Eight workers were exposed to plutonium-238 the Los Alamos National Laboratory on March 17, 2000. Their exposure to plutonium-238 was caused by a leaking pipe connection in a support system serving a glovebox. As a result of this accident, the Secretary of Energy ordered a series of actions to increase worker safety and health and to avoid further accidental exposures.

Plutonium-238 processing facilities can be safely operated to support the nuclear infrastructure missions described in Section 1.2 of Volume 1. Sections 4.2-4.6 of Volume 1 provide the results of the evaluation of potential health impacts that would be expected to result from plutonium-238 processing, including normal operations and a spectrum of accidents that included severe accidents. The environmental analysis showed that the radiological and nonradiological risks associated with plutonium-238 processing would be small.

Commentor No. 1179: Steve Legault

NI PEIS Toll_Free Telephone

9/11/00

Steve Legault
206_782_5639

Completely opposed to the restart of Fast Flux Test Facility in Tri_Cities, Hanford.

1179-1

Curious to know why you are having a public hearing in Arlington, Virginia, but not that curious.

1179-2

Really want to stop that thing.

I work with a number of oncologists, all of them say there is no shortage of nuclear isotopes.

1179-3

I see no need for upgrading nuclear bombs to keep them at an ever_ready hair trigger to fire against the toothless bear called Russia. My wife completely concurs with me, but I think I will have her leave her own message.

1179-4

Response to Commentor No. 1179

1179-1: DOE notes the commentor's opposition to Alternative 1, Restart FFTF.

1179-2: It is DOE policy to hold at least one public hearing in the vicinity of the nation's capital on EISs for which contingent decisions have national implications.

1179-3: DOE has sought independent analysis of trends in the use of medical isotopes, and of its continuing role in this sector, consistent with its mandates under the Atomic Energy Act. In doing so, it established two expert bodies, the Expert Panel and the NERAC. In 1998, the Expert Panel, which convened to forecast future demand for medical isotopes, estimated that the expected growth rate of medical isotope use during the next 20 years would range from 7 to 14 percent per year for therapeutic applications, and 7 to 16 percent per year for diagnostic applications. These findings were later reviewed and endorsed by NERAC, established in 1999 to provide DOE with expert, objective advice regarding the future form of its isotope research and production activities. DOE has adopted these growth projections as a planning tool for evaluating the potential capability of the existing nuclear facility infrastructure to meet programmatic requirements. In the period since the initial estimates were made, the actual growth of medical isotope use has tracked at levels consistent with the Expert Panel findings. Section 1.2.1 of Volume 1 was revised to incorporate this information and to clarify DOE's role in fulfilling the U.S. research and commercial isotope production needs.

For nearly 50 years, DOE has actively promoted the use of radioisotopes to improve the health and well-being of U.S. citizens. DOE's use of its unique technologies and capabilities to develop isotopes for civilian purposes has enabled the widespread application of medical isotopes seen today. While its market share is a small fraction of total world isotope production, DOE remains the key provider for a large number of isotopes that are used in relatively small quantities by individual researchers at universities and hospitals. Because their application is initially experimental, these isotopes are not generally purchased in large-enough quantities to make their production financially attractive to private industry. DOE's intent is to complement commercial sector capabilities to ensure that a reliable supply of isotopes is available in the U.S. to meet future demand, and to encourage the commercial sector to privatize the production of isotopes that have established applications to a level that would support commercial ventures. Currently, approximately 50 percent of DOE's isotope production capability is being used. Much of the remaining isotope production capability is dispersed throughout the

Commentor No. 1179: Steve Legault (Cont'd)

Response to Commentor No. 1179

DOE complex. This capability supports secondary missions, but cannot be effectively used due to the operating constraints associated with the facilities' primary missions basic energy sciences or defense. DOE is currently meeting most of its short-term requirements. However, in the long-term (next 5 to 10 years) there will be a shortfall in available DOE capacity to meet demand. Should the isotope demand grow consistent with the Expert Panel Report, as it has recently, or if DOE's market share increases, there will be a need for expanded isotope production capacity in the short-term (less than 5 years).

- 1179-4:** DOE notes the commentor's opposition to the continuing upgrading of the nuclear arsenal, although issues related to nuclear weapons are beyond the scope of this Nuclear Infrastructure PEIS. The DOE missions to be addressed in this EIS include the production of medical and industrial isotopes, the production of plutonium-238, and civilian nuclear energy research and development. The three missions are civilian nuclear energy missions and are not defense-related.

Commentor No. 1180: Kathy Dattle

NI PEIS Toll_Free Telephone

9/11/00

Kathy Dattle

I would like to ask you to shut down FFTF reactor and start focusing on the cleanup of Hanford. Thank you.

|| 1180-1
|| 1180-2

Response to Commentor No. 1180

- 1180-1:** DOE notes the commentor's support for Alternative 5, Permanently Deactivate FFTF.
- 1180-2:** DOE notes the commentor's concerns regarding the existing cleanup mission at Hanford. Although beyond the scope of this NI PEIS, ongoing Hanford cleanup activities are high priority to DOE. Hanford Site environmental restoration activities are conducted in accordance with the Tri-Party Agreement (i.e., Washington State Department of Ecology, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Department of Energy). This agreement specifies milestones and schedules for restoration of all parts of the Hanford Site. DOE is fully committed to honoring this agreement.

***Commentor No. 1181: Steve Hopkins
Snake River Alliance***

NI PEIS Toll_Free Telephone

9/11/00

Steve Hopkins
Snake River Alliance
208_344_9161

I wonder if there has been a formal request for an extension of the comment deadline on the PEIS. Basically, we feel that we are not given enough time to comment on this document.

I realize that the comment deadline is next week, the 18th. We would like to formally request that DOE grant a 30_day extension of the comment period, and if this has not already been done, I would be interested to know if it is likely.

1181-1

Response to Commentor No. 1181

1181-1: DOE notes the commentor's request for extension of the public comment period. DOE received a number of requests for extension of the public comment period. The Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) "Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act" (40 CFR 1506.10(c)) require that a minimum of 45 days be allowed for public comment on the Draft NI PEIS. As stated in the Notice of Availability (65 FR 46443 et seq.), the public comment period began on July 28, 2000 and continued to September 18, 2000. In preparing the Final PEIS, DOE has assessed and considered both oral and written comments received on the Draft PEIS during the public comment period and has responded to these comments in the Final PEIS. Volume 3 of the NI PEIS contains public comments received on the NI PEIS and DOE responses to those comments. Moreover, late comments were considered to the extent practicable.

Commentor No. 1182: Bob Kingsbrook

NI PEIS Toll-Free Telephone

9/11/00

Bob Kingsbrook
6777 Moore Drive
Oakland, CA 94611

It is critically important to my family, friends, every American, and world citizen that you honor the 1989 Tri-Party Agreement between the U.S., DOE, EPA, and WA Ecology a pact to keep a clear focus on cleaning up the FFTF and cease the impossibly wasteful and dangerous pursuit of so-called nuclear production. Please. Please be prudent. I want you to select Option 5 to permanently deactivate FFTF with no new missions. Please, we must shut down the Hanford FFTF immediately. Please choose Option 5 to permanently deactivate FFTF with no new missions. Thank you.

1182-1

1182-2

Response to Commentor No. 1182

1182-1: DOE was tasked by Congress in the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, to “ensure the availability of isotopes for medical, industrial, and research applications, meeting the nuclear material needs of other federal agencies, and undertaking research and development of activities related to development of nuclear power for civilian use.” The purpose of this PEIS is to determine the environmental and other impacts to accomplishing this mission from all reasonable existing and new DOE resources. The FFTF at the Hanford Site was one of several existing DOE resources that was assessed for this mission.

DOE notes the commentor’s opposition to Alternative 1, Restart FFTF, and concerns regarding the existing cleanup mission at Hanford. Although beyond the scope of this NI PEIS, ongoing activities to remediate existing contamination at Hanford are high priority to DOE. The Hanford Site environmental restoration activities are conducted in accordance with the Tri-Party Agreement (i.e., Washington State Department of Ecology, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Department of Energy). This agreement specifies milestones and schedules for restoration of all parts of the Hanford Site. DOE is fully committed to honoring this agreement. The DOE missions delineated in the NI PEIS would not have an impact on Hanford cleanup activities.

A Tri-Party Agreement change was made to place the milestones for FFTF’s permanent deactivation in abeyance until the DOE reaches a decision on whether the facility will be used to meet mission needs. Public meetings were held on this formal milestone change.

1182-2: DOE notes the commentor’s support for Alternative 5, Permanently Deactivate FFTF.

Commentor No. 1183: Bill Smirnow

NI PEIS Toll_Free Telephone

9/11/00

Bill Smirnow
 169 Maple Hill Road
 Huntington, NY 11743
 631_421_0836

I express opposition to this. The use of nuclear power is both unnecessary and dangerous. And in those rare cases where it might be necessary, it is not worth the risk. The public is not being informed of this in a democratic manner. It should not be undertaken.

1183-1

1183-2

Response to Commentor No. 1183

-
- 1183-1:** The commentor's opposition to nuclear power is noted. The radiological and nonradiological risk of each alternative in the PEIS is analyzed in detail and presented in PEIS Summary Section S.6 and EIS Volume 1, Section 2.7.1. The missions to be addressed in this PEIS, which include the production of medical and industrial isotopes, the production of plutonium-238, and nuclear research and development can currently only be met using nuclear reactor or accelerator technologies.
- 1183-2:** DOE policy encourages effective public participation in its decision making process. In compliance with NEPA and CEQ regulations, DOE provided opportunity to the public to comment on the scope of the NI PEIS and the environmental impact analysis of DOE's proposed alternatives. DOE gave equal consideration to all comments. In preparing the Final NI PEIS, DOE carefully considered comments received from the public.

Commentor No. 1184: Hanna Washerman

NI PEIS Toll-Free Telephone

9/11/00

Hanna Washerman
212_689_0048

I am totally against any increase in space nuclear power.

I think we better cleanup. I hear it costs \$300 billion, the pollution at DOE facilities now from what's been done in space already. Thank you.

1184-1

Response to Commentor No. 1184

1184-1: DOE notes the commentor's concern for NASA's use of nuclear materials for space missions and concern over nuclear waste. Through a Memorandum of Understanding with NASA, DOE provides radioisotope power systems, and the plutonium-238 that fuels them, for space missions that require or would be enhanced by their use. These radioisotope power systems have been used for almost 40 years, and have repeatedly demonstrated their performance, safety, and reliability in various NASA space missions. NASA establishes the need and requirements for space missions and undergoes a thorough NEPA evaluation for each launch.

As discussed in Chapter 4 of Volume 1 (e.g. sections 4.3.1.1.13, 4.3.2.1.13, 4.3.3.1.13), waste will be generated by all of the alternatives, including the No Action Alternative. The NI PEIS addressed the environmental impacts due to the treatment, storage, and disposal of the waste generated by the proposed actions for all alternatives and alternative options. Waste minimization programs at each of the proposed sites are also addressed. These programs will be implemented for the alternative selected in the Record of Decision. DOE activities associated with this program would not impact the schedule or available funding for existing cleanup activities at candidate sites for implementation of the nuclear infrastructure alternatives.

Commentor No. 1185: Annie Wildwood

NI PEIS Toll_Free Telephone

9/11/00

Annie Wildwood
PO Box 133
Cotati, CA 94931

I think it is essential that certain things be considered by the Department of Energy. NASA is not doing enough to develop alternative power sources for space missions. European Space Agency has now developed high efficacy solar cells for deep space missions.

1185-1

Plutonium production fabrication process for space nuclear power missions has recently led to several worker contamination accidents. Expansion of the production will only worsen the problem.

1185-2

Point 3, the expanded nuclear, the number of launches of nuclear power space devices from Cape Canaveral on rockets with 10 percent failure rate will only increase the possibility of a deadly mishap.

1185-1

Point 4, the massive cost of expanded production of plutonium_238 cannot be justified at a time when the DOE admits it needs over \$300 billion to clean up existing problems at DOE facilities.

1185-3

Point 5, the military is promoting the use of nuclear power in space for space_based weapons technology. Using nuclear power for space war, we will have severe environmental implications for life on earth.

1185-1

It is essential that DOE considers these points and reassess the current PEIS. Please take our comments to heart and reassess the current PEIS. Please. Thank you. Thank you for allowing this number here to make my comments. I hope you deeply consider these serious matters that I have mentioned.

1185-4

Response to Commentor No. 1185

- 1185-1:** DOE notes the commentor's concern for NASA's use of nuclear materials for space missions, interest in the development of alternative energy sources for space missions, and concern for the use of nuclear power in space-based weapons. Through a Memorandum of Understanding with NASA, DOE provides radioisotope power systems, and the plutonium-238 that fuels them, for space missions that require or would be enhanced by their use. These radioisotope power systems have been used for almost 40 years, and have repeatedly demonstrated their performance, safety, and reliability in various NASA space missions. NASA establishes the need and requirements for space missions and undergoes a thorough NEPA evaluation for each launch. None of the missions stated in the NI PEIS are defense- or weapons-related.
- 1185-2:** Plutonium-238 processing facilities can be safely operated to support the nuclear infrastructure missions described in Section 1.2 of Volume 1. Sections 4.2-4.6 of Volume 1 provide the results of the evaluation of potential health impacts that would be expected to result from plutonium-238 processing, including normal operations and a spectrum of accidents that included severe accidents. The environmental analysis showed that the radiological and nonradiological risks associated with plutonium-238 processing would be small.
- 1185-3:** DOE notes the commentor's opinion and concern about funding available for cleanup at DOE facilities.
- 1185-4:** DOE is committed to providing the public with comprehensive environmental reviews of its proposed actions in accordance with NEPA, and to providing ample opportunity for public comment on those actions. DOE gave equal consideration to all comments. In preparing the Final NI PEIS, DOE carefully considered comments received from the public. DOE's Record of Decision for the NI PEIS will be based on a number of factors including environmental impacts, public input, costs, nonproliferation impacts, schedules, technical assurance, and other policy and programmatic objectives.

Commentor No. 1186: Rosa Zubizarreta

08/03/2000 02:17 518-536-0206 ROSA ZUBIZARRETA PAGE 02

To: Colette E. Brown
U.S. Department of Energy

Dear Ms. Brown,

I would like to offer my comments on the draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement re: plans to expand production of PLU-238 for future space missions.

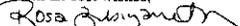
As an individual citizen of this country, the level of risk from the production of plutonium and from the use of plutonium to power space exploration is unacceptable to me, especially given that there are safe solar alternatives for this purpose.

As you may know, scientists around the world have endorsed the program of "The Natural Step", which calls upon our industrial society to produce only substances which can be safely returned and reintegrated to the natural cycles of matter. Producing plutonium is not in alignment with the need to create a safe and sustainable world for future generation. It only makes sense as a means to increase our potential for destruction.

While I appreciate the Environmental Impact process as a potentially helpful step towards making a wise decision, I do not see enough evidence of informed public dialog on this issue, in order for there to be sufficient public education and participation in a matter of such grave import.

I thank you for your careful consideration of these issues.

With all best wishes,


Rosa Zubizarreta
707-578-6650

1186-1

1186-2

Response to Commentor No. 1186

- 1186-1:** DOE notes the commentor's concern for NASA's use of nuclear materials for space missions and interest in the development of alternative energy sources for space missions, although issues such as NASA research priorities are beyond the scope of this PEIS. Through a Memorandum of Understanding with NASA, DOE provides radioisotope power systems, and the plutonium-238 that fuels them, for space missions that require or would be enhanced by their use. These radioisotope power systems have been used for almost 40 years, and have repeatedly demonstrated their performance, safety, and reliability in various NASA space missions. NASA establishes the need and requirements for space missions and undergoes a thorough NEPA evaluation for each launch.
- 1186-2:** DOE notes the commentor's views including the need for public dialog and education as a prerequisite for informed public participation. It is DOE policy to encourage public input on matters of regional, national and international importance. In doing so, DOE has established reading rooms near DOE sites to provide easy access to information about DOE programs and encourages the use of this source of information. Further, DOE has numerous web sites, including one for NE (<http://www.nuclear.gov>), that provide up-to-date-information complete with fact sheets, news releases, and other materials. In compliance with NEPA and CEQ regulations, DOE provided opportunity to the public to comment on the scope of the NI PEIS and the environmental impact analysis of DOE's proposed alternatives. DOE gave equal consideration to all comments.

Commentor No. 1187: Aaron A. Semer

From: Aaron Semer[SMTP:AARON@AIDSHOUSING.ORG]
 Sent: Friday, September 08, 2000 6:26:24 PM
 To: INFRASTRUCTURE_PEIS, NUCLEAR
 Subject: DO NOT RESTART THE FFTF!!
 Auto forwarded by a Rule

I absolutely believe that option 5_ "permanently deactivate FFTF with no new missions," is the only rational and responsible choice to make. The negative effects of restarting the FFTF far outweigh the positive. It's too expensive, too contaminating, and goes directly against the current legal mission of Hanford, which is clean_up, not production. You have a responsibility to the people of Washington, and the rest of the country(even the world), to keep us free of contamination and use our tax dollars wisely. Hanford has proven to do neither of these. It is a money wasting, polluting cesspool. The sooner it is cleaned up and shut down, the better.

Sincerely,

Aaron A. Semer
 417 13th Ave. E #105
 Seattle, WA 98102

1187-1

1187-2

1187-3

1187-4

Response to Commentor No. 1187

- 1187-1:** DOE notes the commentor's support for Alternative 5, Permanently Deactivate FFTF.
- 1187-2:** DOE notes the commentor's opinion.
- 1187-3:** Restart and operation of the FFTF would result in minimal contamination of the biosphere (air, water, land). All air emissions and wastewater discharges to the environment would be in accordance with applicable permit and regulatory requirements. The releases of air pollutants and contaminated liquids associated with FFTF operations are addressed in detail in Section 4.3 of the NI PEIS. The release of criteria air pollutants would result in concentrations well below Federal and state air standards Table 4-13); the releases of radioactivity and hazardous chemicals into the atmosphere would have a negligible effect on human health (Tables 4.17 and 4-19). No discernible impacts to groundwater or surface water quality would result from water discharges (Section 4.3.1.1.4).
- 1187-4:** DOE notes the commentor's concerns regarding the existing cleanup mission at Hanford. Although beyond the scope of this NI PEIS, ongoing activities to remediate existing contamination at Hanford are high priority to DOE. The Hanford Site environmental restoration activities are conducted in accordance with the Tri-Party Agreement (i.e., Washington State Department of Ecology, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Department of Energy). This agreement specifies milestones and schedules for restoration of all parts of the Hanford Site. A Tri-Party Agreement change was made to place the milestones for FFTF's permanent deactivation in abeyance until the DOE reaches a decision on whether the facility will be used to meet mission needs. Public meetings were held on this formal milestone change. The DOE missions delineated in the NI PEIS would not have an impact on Hanford cleanup activities.

Commentor No. 1188: Gerald Woodcock

From: Gerald Woodcock[SMTP:PILOTMBA@OWT.COM]
Sent: Friday, September 08, 2000 11:10:04 PM
To: INFRASTRUCTURE_PEIS, NUCLEAR
Subject: Restart FFTF
Auto forwarded by a Rule

It is an absolute imperative that FFTF be restarted if emerging treatments for cancer using medical isotopes are to achieve their full potential. This is not an abstract intellectual exercise. The restart of FFTF has the potential to treat thousands of cancer patients, alleviate tremendous amounts of pain and suffering, prolong useful lives of patients and improve their quality of life. The potential goes far beyond the borders of our own country. While the program cannot initially be self_sustaining financially, objective analysis shows that FFTF can be financially "in the black" in as little as seven years after returning to service.

Gerald Woodcock

1188-1

1188-2

Response to Commentor No. 1188

1188-1: DOE notes the commentor's support for Alternative 1, Restart FFTF.

1188-2: DOE notes the commentor's opinion. The estimated costs of the range of reasonable alternatives are presented in the Cost Report, summarized in Appendix P of the Final NI PEIS. However, the Cost Report is not a cost-benefit analysis. While it is reasonable to believe that the benefits of medical isotopes are substantial, the purpose of this NI PEIS is to describe the nuclear infrastructure missions (Section 1.2 of Volume 1), a range of reasonable alternatives for satisfying the mission requirements (Section 2.5 of Volume 1), and the environmental impacts that would result from implementation of the alternatives. According to 40 CFR Section 1502.23, if a cost-benefit analysis exists, it must be reported and summarized in the NI PEIS.

Commentor No. 1189: Jim and Susan Wells

From: Jim and Susan Wells
 [SMTP:JNSWELLS@EARTHLINK.NET]
 Sent: Saturday, September 09, 2000 12:36:28 AM
 To: INFRASTRUCTURE_PEIS, NUCLEAR
 Cc: Ruth Yarrow
 Subject: Shut down the Hanford FFTF now!
 Auto forwarded by a Rule

Dear Committee Members:

It's critically important to my family, friends, and every American and world citizen that you immediately honor the 1989 Tri_Party agreement between USDOE, EPA and WA Ecology, a pact to keep clear focus on cleaning up the FFTF and cease the impossibly wasteful and dangerous pursuit of so-called nuclear production.

1189-1

Those living now as well as voiceless future generations are depending on your prudent selection of Option 5: to permanently deactivate FFTF, with no new missions.

1189 -2

Please do this now.

Yours truly,

Jim and Susan Wells
 2815 10th Place West
 Seattle, WA 98119

Response to Commentor No. 1189

1189-1: DOE notes the commentor's opposition to Alternative 1, Restart FFTF, and concerns regarding the existing cleanup mission at Hanford. Although beyond the scope of this NI PEIS, ongoing activities to remediate existing contamination at Hanford are high priority to DOE. The Hanford Site environmental restoration activities are conducted in accordance with the Tri-Party Agreement (i.e., Washington State Department of Ecology, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Department of Energy). This agreement specifies milestones and schedules for restoration of all parts of the Hanford Site. DOE is fully committed to honoring this agreement.

A Tri-Party Agreement change was made to place the milestones for FFTF's permanent deactivation in abeyance until the DOE reaches a decision on whether the facility will be used to meet mission needs. Public meetings were held on this formal milestone change. The DOE missions delineated in the NI PEIS would not have an impact on Hanford cleanup activities.

DOE was tasked by Congress in the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, to "... ensure the availability of isotopes for medical, industrial, and research applications, meeting the nuclear material needs of other federal agencies, and undertaking research and development of activities related to development of nuclear power for civilian use." The purpose of this PEIS is to determine the environmental and other impacts to accomplishing this mission from all reasonable existing and new DOE resources. The FFTF at the Hanford Site was one of several existing DOE resources that was assessed for this mission.

1189-2: DOE notes the commentor's support for Alternative 5, Permanently Deactivate FFTF.

Commentor No. 1190: Tammy Johnson

From: Tammysmail@cs.com%internet
[SMTP:TAMMYSMAIL@CS.COM]
Sent: Friday, September 08, 2000 8:50:37 PM
To: INFRASTRUCTURE_PEIS, NUCLEAR
Subject: (no subject)
Auto forwarded by a Rule

I just wanted to let you know that I believe the medical isotopes should be used to help in any way that they can to reduce cancer. This is a disease that effects many people and their families and should be allowed to be utilized.

Tammy Johnson

1190-1

Response to Commentor No. 1190

1190-1: DOE notes the commentor's support for greater availability of medical isotopes for the treatment of cancer. For nearly 50 years, DOE has actively promoted the use of radioisotopes to improve the health and well being of U.S. citizens. DOE's use of its unique technologies and capabilities to develop isotopes for civilian purposes has enabled the widespread application of medical isotopes seen today. While its market share is a small fraction of total world isotope production, DOE remains the key provider for a large number of isotopes that are used in relatively small quantities by individual researchers at universities and hospitals. Because their application is initially experimental, these isotopes are not generally purchased in large-enough quantities to make their production financially attractive to private industry. DOE's intent is to complement commercial sector capabilities to ensure that a reliable supply of isotopes is available in the U.S. to meet future demand, and to encourage the commercial sector to privatize the production of isotopes that have established applications to a level that would support commercial ventures.

Commentor No. 1191: Russell D. Hoffman

To: Colette E. Brown at al,
 U.S. Department of Energy, NE_50,
 19901 Germantown Road, Germantown, MD 20874_1290;
 by fax (toll_free) at 1_877/562_4592; by phone (toll_free) at
 1_877/562_4593; or by electronic mail to:
 Nuclear.Infrastructure_PEIS@hq.doe.gov

Re: DoE PLANS FOR EXPANDED PRODUCTION OF PLU_238
 FOR FUTURE SPACE MISSIONS, specifically, solicited comments
 based on the DRAFT Programmatic Environmental Impact
 Statement for Accomplishing Expanded Civilian Nuclear Energy
 Research and Development and Isotope Production Missions in the
 United States, Including the Role of the Fast Flux Test Facility,
 DOE/EIS_0310D, July, 2000

From: Russell Hoffman
 Concerned Citizen, P.O. Box 1936, Carlsbad, California 92018
 (760) 720_7261, rhoffman@animatedsoftware.com
 SENT VIA EMAIL
 September 9th, 2000

Dear Ms Brown et al,

One hardly has to read the approximately 1200 pages of fiction to
 recognize a great lie is being perpetrated by DOE.

DOE wants radioactive material for its nuclear weapons and
 nuclear_powered weapons systems. The American military is the
 most powerful political organization in the world, yet its
 organizational methods are utterly unobservable. It is also the
 least_regulated pseudo_corporation in the galaxy, and the single
 most polluting entity of all times in the universe. It gets much of its
 nuclear material from DOE.

1191-1

Response to Commentor No. 1191

1191-1: DOE notes the commentor's views. Consistent with its mandates under the Atomic Energy Act, DOE seeks to maintain and enhance its infrastructure for the purposes of addressing three primary needs: 1) to support the need for increased domestic production of isotopes for medical, research, and industrial uses, as initially identified by a panel of experts in the medical field and reaffirmed by the Nuclear Energy Research Advisory Committee; 2) to support future NASA space exploration missions by re-establishing a domestic capability to produce plutonium-238, a fuel source that is required for deep space missions and which the U.S. has no long-term, assured supply; and 3) to support civilian nuclear research and development needs in order to maintain the clean, safe, and reliable use of nuclear power as a viable component of the United States' energy portfolio. Section 1.2 of Volume 1 was revised to clarify the purpose and need of the proposed action.

None of the alternatives in the NI PEIS include defense missions and would not contribute to future weapons production. Also, the proposed action would not have an impact on the cleanup missions at any of the candidate sites.

1191-2: DOE notes the commentor's opposition to enhancing its existing nuclear facility infrastructure to support production of plutonium-238 for use in future NASA space exploration missions. Through a Memorandum of Understanding with NASA, DOE provides radioisotope power systems, and the plutonium-238 that fuels them, for space missions that require or would be enhanced by their use. In addition, under the National Space Policy issued by the Office of Science and Technology Policy in September 1996, and consistent with DOE's charter under the Atomic Energy Act, DOE is responsible for maintaining the capability to provide the plutonium-238 needed to support these missions. There are approximately 9 kilograms (19.8 pounds) of plutonium-238 in the U.S. inventory available to support future NASA space missions. Although research to identify other potential fuel sources to support these space exploration missions has been conducted, no viable alternative to using plutonium-238 has been established. Section 1.2.2 of Volume 1 was revised to further clarify the purpose and need for reestablishing a domestic plutonium-238 production capability to support NASA space exploration missions. NASA uses plutonium-238 sources only when they enable the mission or enhance mission capabilities. Potential environmental impacts associated with launches of spacecraft using plutonium-238 are addressed in NEPA documentation prepared by NASA

Commentor No. 1191: Russell D. Hoffman (Cont'd)

Now, in this Draft PEIS, the DOE wants to be given millions of dollars in order to procure and process millions of Curies of plutonium and other radioactive substances, supposedly for civilian purposes, but in reality, for new war toys including military satellites powered by Plutonium 238 __ satellites which could just as easily be powered by solar technologies or which should not be placed in orbit at all until or unless appropriate alternative energy technologies exist.

DOE wants to do much of the work at already_existing nuclear waste Superfund impossible_to_clean_up sites, namely, Hanford, Washington, Oak Ridge, Tennessee, Los Alamos, New Mexico, and so forth.

The DOE creates this apparent civilian "need" for plutonium RTGs (Radioactive Thermoelectric Generators), and other tools of the trade, by endorsing and arranging the funding of NASA projects which are civilian in appearance, and perhaps leading_edge in some of their other technologies, but which are positively 20th_Century (i.e. old) in their use of nuclear energy solutions, relying on dangerous and closed_market technologies of no use to the average citizen, which furthermore, are utterly wasteful of the very resource they use, since the plutonium is not recoverable after the mission, and which are old technology when compared to what is available even now on the open market __ clean solar energy systems would work perfectly well for most of the proposed missions, and in other cases, smaller missions could fulfill all the science data requirements of all the proposed civilian space missions. There is no need for the nuclear components at all. Not one watt of energy or degree of heat needs to be generated by the use of nuclear components for any vital interest, civilian or military, of any country, including the United States.

And yet NASA/DOE continues to demand more nuclear components. Why?

**1191-1
(Cont'd)**

1191-2

1191-3

Response to Commentor No. 1191

in support of each mission. Radioisotope power systems have been used for over 30 years, and have repeatedly demonstrated their performance, safety, and reliability in NASA space missions. Based on NASA guidance to DOE on the potential use of radioisotope power systems for upcoming space missions, it is anticipated that the existing plutonium-238 inventory will be exhausted by approximately 2005.

NASA, not DOE, is responsible for spacecraft design and for determining what electric power source best suits the mission-specific needs. Without an assured domestic supply of plutonium-238, DOE's ability to support future NASA space exploration missions may be lost. Plutonium-238 produced domestically or procured from Russia as a result of the NI PEIS Record of Decision, is to be used to support NASA deep space missions and can not be used for any defense-related mission.

1191-3: DOE notes the commentor's concern for NASA's use of nuclear materials for space missions. These radioisotope power systems have been used for almost 40 years, and have repeatedly demonstrated their performance, safety, and reliability in various NASA space missions. NASA establishes the need and requirements for space missions and undergoes a thorough NEPA evaluation for each launch. None of the missions stated in the NI PEIS are defense- or weapons-related.

The use of depleted uranium, and the use of nuclear-powered ships and submarines are not within the scope of this PEIS.

Commentor No. 1191: Russell D. Hoffman (Cont'd)

Because DOE loves plutonium. So does the military. They cannot conceive of the millions of scattered deaths their poisons create, literally in their wake.

A few months before Cassini was launched, in 1997, DOE announced that future missions would use a five_times better thermoelectric generator, known as an RPS, instead of the RTGs used on Cassini. Five times better isn't nearly good enough, but nonetheless, had DOE merely implemented this new unit for Cassini's launch, that would have given them about 50 pounds of "free" plutonium __ several year's worth at the proposed rates of use by NASA!

So clearly, DOE is not properly respectful of plutonium even simply as a precious resource, one which is deadly if improperly handled at any step. This policy fact is clearly demonstrated in the physical form of the RTGs themselves. NSAA's flimsy containment system isn't even designed to be 100% secure, and NASA's expected release rates from accidents, as published for example in the Cassini space probe's EIS, prove that the RTGs are carefully designed to release their contents in a reentry accident of some sort, as a fine powder at a high altitude.

The perfect spectrum of sizes for lodging in a person's lungs, to be exact.

And the perfect spectrum of sizes to be widely dispersed by the winds before reaching the ground, so that whoever dies does not die in a herd, but by themselves, from one little speck that found its way into that person's lungs.

Cancer, leukemia, and birth defects. These are the things DOE wishes a permit to create. And the reason is for military power supplies for "Cold War" spy satellites. As far as this writer can tell, NASA's recent Cassini probe was part of a cover operation for the military.

**1191-3
(Cont'd)**

Response to Commentor No. 1191

Commentor No. 1191: Russell D. Hoffman (Cont'd)

Cassini is right now on its way towards Jupiter and Saturn. But just because the flyby of Earth and the launch have both occurred doesn't mean we are safe from that awful bird ___ far from it. And does DOE recall NASA's failure to calculate an orbital insertion ___ a very similar maneuver to a flyby ___ just one month after Cassini flew by Earth?

Right now, Cassini should be re_aimed, so that if anything goes wrong, it would be more likely to impact Jupiter rather than fly by it. And Cassini should be left in that orbital pattern.

Cassini could become a lost probe, going dead any time between now, September 9th, 2000, and when it is supposed to fall into Saturn or one of its moons about a decade from now, after all its illustrious science data is returned and it is nothing more than a flying chunk of radioactive waste (Pu 238's half life is about 87 years, Pu 239, 24,400 years). No trajectory is exact, and unmeasurable (with current technologies) gravitational combinations of forces, plus the forces from micrometeor impacts, all together mean that soon we would have no idea where Cassini might actually be. Cassini could possibly loop around one of the outer planets and be driven back towards Earth, having by the time it gets to us (unseen), possibly have experienced a decade or even a hundred years in space, during which time the containment system will probably have become brittle and useless. Cassini could be thrown back at us by the outer planets, just as Earth and Venus were used as sling_shots to get Cassini out towards Saturn in the first place.

All this risk, for what? Not to please the public! The public expressed widespread disgust with NASA for launching Cassini in the face of reason, and NASA had to put on a major publicity campaign to counteract the bad publicity it rightfully received. (Using what official or unofficial budget to counteract the actions of this and other activists, I do not know.)

1191-3
(Cont'd)

Response to Commentor No. 1191

Commentor No. 1191: Russell D. Hoffman (Cont'd)

All this mess, and trouble, for what? To cover_up what are probably dozens of military nuclear launches.

All the "civilian" missions are part of a military regime; they are cover_ups. The military thinks they need nuclear powered electrical energy generators (RTGs), and undoubtedly they think they need nuclear heaters as well (RHUs, Radioactive Heater Units, which each contain tens of millions of fatal doses worth of plutonium 238 and 239 (2.7 grams) and which each absolutely will incinerate in virtually any reentry accident (there are about 130 RHUs on board Cassini).

All of the civilian nuclear_powered and equipped probes which are right now being designed and built, could either just as easily be solar_probes or could be switched for missions which do not go quite so far out as to study Pluto, for example, this decade instead of next, or which carry a few less instruments so that the energy drain is reduced somewhat. However, NASA/DOE's goal in choosing specific missions is in fact, to reach just beyond the practical limit, not as a show of can_do or bravado (for what bravery is required to risk other people's lives?), but simply to force the use of nuclear, so that the system is in place for the military uses to go on unnoticed.

Putting one too many experiments on board the probe so that solar becomes difficult is one of DOE's goals when deciding which missions to fund!

Replacing missions with solar variants has been studied conclusively, even years ago, for Galileo __ and by JPL's own scientists. Specifically in the D. E. Rockey et al report of 1980, extracted from NASA by Karl Grossman, using the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). There has been more than 20 years of solar development since then __ surely we could get to the next planet out past Jupiter by now (little of the solar development that has occurred in the last 20 years has been thanks to our DOE, who, having banked on nuclear power, are now making the nation morally and financially bankrupt for having let them do so).

**1191-3
(Cont'd)**

Response to Commentor No. 1191

Commentor No. 1191: Russell D. Hoffman (Cont'd)

Our DOE leaders continue choosing shortsighted nuclear "solutions". Why? There's nothing civil about it. NASA space probes are improperly insured, too ___ by the Price_Anderson act, as corrupt an act as any Americans have ever revolted against or been revolted by. And note that P_A was designed to "insure" Stationary Objects ___ nuclear power plants ___ NOT space probes! NASA is protected by use of the Price_Anderson act from financial loss caused by Cassini or by NASA's other uses of plutonium and other radioactive substances ___ protected, that is, from legal justice by the victims of NASA policy. Protected by an illegal act which NASA has no right to operate under the shield of, even if the act were legal for those stationary nuclear power plants it was originally designed to hold harmless from the financial consequences of their own actions.

I say the entire Draft PEIS is a lie. It's basic premises are lies. NASA doesn't need nuclear power for civilian probes, and the military needs to be reigned in ___ they don't need nuclear power either, for probes, subs, ships, or on the tips of missiles. Humanity demands that the U.S. Military, and all militaries all around the world, be subservient to an even higher goal than winning wars against people. Humanity demands that these wars be planned for, and even be executed if need be, while conforming to the same environmental laws the rest of society lives (and dies) under.

Otherwise, we might win all the battles, but we will lose the planet, and along with it our health, our homelands, and everything else we cherish as citizens of a growing nation and as individual souls on a planet of billions of each_precious souls.

In Kosovo, Depleted Uranium bullets fired at, among other things, chemical industrial sites have turned the Blue Danube black with death. In Iraq, children die at the rate of 10,000 a month, because sewage systems and water irrigation systems were bombed, and because millions of shells of Depleted Uranium were used to win the Gulf War so quickly and "efficiently".

**1191-3
(Cont'd)**

Response to Commentor No. 1191

Commentor No. 1191: Russell D. Hoffman (Cont'd)

The use of Depleted Uranium should be banned, and the use of plutonium_powered listening devices for the military, whether undersea or in orbit in outer space (both uses are common today) should likewise be forbidden.

Further, the use of nuclear_powered ships and submarines must be stopped. Failures such as the Thresher and the Scorpion, two American nuclear subs which were lost for uncertain reasons, and more recently Russia's flagship nuclear sub, the Kursk (the Thresher was a flagship sub, in its time) remind us all too well that accidents can and will continue to happen. Each nuclear reactor which has already been lost or dumped at sea (the U.S. Navy dumped the research reactor Sea Wolf into the ocean some years back) needs to be pulled out and recovered, for a more proper nuclear waste disposal. But getting them out of the ocean is only one of the steps in what will be a long and nightmarish waste_guarding operation.

Who will do it? Who will pay for it? DOE must do it, AND DOE must pay for it. They should not be given yet more money for creating more nuclear waste and spreading it around the environment, using false pretenses and fictitious needs. They can't even clean up for their past mistakes. DOE is bankrupt.

And DOE must, as well, shut down all civilian nuclear power plants, each of which has a spent fuel pool next to it which is more deadly and dangerous than the plant itself. The clean energy solutions are Wind, Wave, Tide, Solar, Geothermal, Biomass, Hydroelectric, Ocean Thermal Gradient, and so on. They are NOT nuclear, coal, or oil solution's to America's constant and never_ending energy shortage. The solutions only come from a wide mix of available sources, not from the closed_minded, ingrown thinking which ignores the facts about nuclear waste disposal problems and dispersal problems, and all the other problems that have attended the use of nuclear energy and weapons since Day 1.

**1191-3
(Cont'd)**

Response to Commentor No. 1191

Commentor No. 1191: Russell D. Hoffman (Cont'd)

Please acknowledge receipt of these comments, and I request to know the name of any government official who actually reads even so much as this one document in opposition to the DOE nightmare proposed in the Draft PEIS, let alone, familiarizes themselves with the full details of what crimes are going on in the lofty name of science and space exploration, giving both a bad name, and polluting the planet, and the Near Earth Orbit area terribly. For I believe there is not one properly credentialed or elected official anywhere in the whole U.S. Government who can answer the charges I have brought forth here.

Sincerely,

Russell Hoffman
Concerned Citizen / Activist, Carlsbad, California
rhoffman@animatedsoftware.com

Attachments (2)**Attachment 1):**

Note to all readers: Please send your own comments to DOE by September 11th, 2000. Request a confirmation of receipt. If you want to send DOE a copy of this letter, it is okay to add your name to this document if you like, but an additional comment by you would be most helpful to the cause. Please "cc" me a copy as well. Thank you in advance!

The official organization which opposes nuclear power in space censors this writer's opinions, but if you wish to contact them, their address is: GlobeNet <globalnet@mindspring.com> Bruce Gagnon is their director. In this writer's opinion, Gagnon is an agent/infiltrator whose goal is to destroy the movement against nuclear power in space. He is, in effect, a black hole of information. Thanks to Jonathan Haber for reminding us of the upcoming deadline for comments on the Draft PEIS.

**1191-3
(Cont'd)****Response to Commentor No. 1191**

Commentor No. 1191: Russell D. Hoffman (Cont'd)

Attachment 2): Related Internet URLs:

Peace Activist, Environmentalist, High Tech Guru:
<http://www.animatedsoftware.com/whoisrdh.htm>

Founder and Editor of the Stop Cassini newsletter:
<http://www.animatedsoftware.com/cassini/nltrs/index.htm>

Learn the madness of NASA's ongoing nuclear policies! Visit the Stop Cassini web site:
<http://www.animatedsoftware.com/cassini/cassini.htm>

Learn about The Effects of Nuclear War here:
http://www.animatedsoftware.com/environm/no_nukes/tenw/nuke_war.htm

What is a half_life? (Compares Plutonium 238 to Plutonium 239)
<http://www.animatedsoftware.com/cassini/nltrs/nltr0146.htm>

What is the Electromagnetic Pulse (EMP)? Is nuclear war winnable?
<http://www.animatedsoftware.com/cassini/nltrs/nltr0128.htm>

Hug a tree! Read why it should matter to you what happens to the great Redwoods in California:
<http://www.animatedsoftware.com/misc/stories/redwoods/redwoods.htm>

Why you need encryption: An interview with Phil Zimmerman:
<http://www.animatedsoftware.com/hightech/philspgp.htm>
(also available in Spanish)

###

Response to Commentor No. 1191

Commentor No. 1192: Tobiah Israel

From: Tobiah Israel[SMTP:TOBIAH@GORGE.NET]
Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2000 9:22:09 AM
To: INFRASTRUCTURE_PEIS, NUCLEAR
Subject: Hanford
Auto forwarded by a Rule

To Whom it May Concern,

Hanford is the most highly contaminated nuclear site in the western world. * Restarting FFTF would produce new high level radioactive waste streams, which affect worker health and safety, public and environmental health.

*Permanently shutting down the FFTF is part of the 1989 Tri_Party Agreement between USDOE, EPA and WA Ecology.

* Keeping FFTF on hot standby for four years has cost over \$40 million per year.

* The Washington State Medical Association, WA Academy of Family Physicians and Physicians for Social Responsibility/National have all passed resolutions opposing the restart of the FFTF.

* The legal mission of Hanford is clean_up, not production.

Tobiah Israel, A concerned citizen from Washington State

1192-1

1192-2

1192-3

1192-4

1192-2

Response to Commentor No. 1192

1192-1: As identified in Section 4.3.1.1.13 of the NI PEIS, the restart of FFTF would generate about 63 cubic meters of additional radioactive waste (e.g., solid low-level radioactive waste) annually, in addition to nonhazardous wastes. This would account for about 2,205 cubic meters of additional radioactive waste to be generated over the 35-year period of nuclear infrastructure operations and is small in comparison to the waste generated by current Hanford activities. This waste would not be stored in the high-level radioactive waste tanks. It is DOE's policy that all wastes be managed (i.e., treated, stored and disposed) in a safe and environmentally protective manner and in compliance with all applicable Federal and state laws and regulations and applicable DOE orders.

The NI PEIS addressed the environmental impacts due to the treatment, storage, and disposal of the waste generated by the proposed actions for all alternatives and alternative options. Waste minimization programs at each of the proposed sites are also addressed. These programs will be implemented for the alternative selected in the Record of Decision.

1192-2: DOE notes the commentor's opposition to Alternative 1, Restart FFTF, and concerns regarding the existing cleanup mission at Hanford. Although beyond the scope of this NI PEIS, ongoing activities to remediate existing contamination at Hanford are high priority to DOE. The Hanford Site environmental restoration activities are conducted in accordance with the Tri-Party Agreement (i.e., Washington State Department of Ecology, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Department of Energy). This agreement specifies milestones and schedules for restoration of all parts of the Hanford Site. A Tri-Party Agreement change was made to place the milestones for FFTF's permanent deactivation in abeyance until the DOE reaches a decision on whether the facility will be used to meet mission needs. Public meetings were held on this formal milestone change. The DOE missions delineated in the NI PEIS would not have an impact on Hanford cleanup activities. DOE is fully committed to honoring this agreement.

DOE was tasked by Congress in the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, to "... ensure the availability of isotopes for medical, industrial, and research applications, meeting the nuclear material needs of other federal agencies, and undertaking research and development of activities related to development of nuclear power for civilian use." The purpose of this PEIS is to determine the environmental and other impacts to accomplishing this mission from all reasonable existing and new DOE

Commentor No. 1192: Tobiah Israel (Cont'd)

Response to Commentor No. 1192

resources. The FFTF at the Hanford Site was one of several existing DOE resources that was assessed for this mission.

- 1192-3:** The commentor's observation is correct, as noted in the Cost Report. DOE's Record of Decision for the NI PEIS will be based on a number of factors including environmental impacts, public input, costs, nonproliferation impacts, schedules, technical assurance, and other policy and programmatic objectives.
- 1192-4:** DOE notes the commentor's opposition to Alternative 1, Restart FFTF.

Commentor No. 1193: Charlie Warren

From: Charlie Warren[SMTP:CWARREN@NEWNW.COM]
Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2000 9:26:11 AM
To: INFRASTRUCTURE_PEIS, NUCLEAR
Subject: FFTF
Auto forwarded by a Rule

Please help to restart the FFTF. The medical world needs it as do many people who would be helped by the isotopes it would produce.

Thanks,

Charlie Warren
Kennewick, Wa

1193-1

Response to Commentor No. 1193

1193-1: DOE notes the commentor's support for Alternative 1, Restart FFTF.

Commentor No. 1194: Richard W. Lindsay

From: Richard Lindsay[SMTP:RLIND@SRV.NET]
Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2000 9:39:41 AM
To: INFRASTRUCTURE_PEIS, NUCLEAR
Subject: Ms. Colette Brown
Auto forwarded by a Rule

Hi, I would like to register my support for alternative 1 for restart of FFTF, etc. for the PEIS DOE/NE_0119. I believe it is high time the U.S. got back into the business of providing for itself, and, in addition, I believe that the U.S. has lost much of it's credibility among other nations for nuclear matters. I have been told as much by people from other nations (before my retirement).

Thank you.

Richard W. Lindsay
77 N. 50 E.
Blackfoot, Idaho
83221

208 785 3209

1194-1**Response to Commentor No. 1194**

1194-1: DOE notes the commentor's support for Alternative 1, Restart FFTF.

Commentor No. 1195: Mike Conlan

From: DistFund@aol.com%internet
[SMTP:DISTFUND@AOL.COM]
Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2000 9:46:54 AM
To: INFRASTRUCTURE PEIS, NUCLEAR
Subject: Shut down FTFF, alternative #5
Auto forwarded by a Rule

The Environmental Impact Statement released by the DOE does not include important information:

- 1. Future demands for medical isotopes can be met using other facilities. **1195-1**
- 2. Future needs for plutonium to power NASA space missions can be met using existing supplies, supplemented by foreign sources if necessary. **1195-2**
- 3. The cost analysis, non_proliferation study and waste management study, all extremely important to measuring the impact of FTFF restart, are separated from the environmental impact study. **1195-3**
1195-4
1195-5

Mike Conlan,
Redmond, WA

Response to Commentor No. 1195

1195-1: Currently, approximately 50 percent of DOE’s isotope production capability is being used. Much of the remaining isotope production capability is dispersed throughout the DOE complex. This capability supports secondary missions, but cannot be effectively used due to the operating constraints associated with the facilities’ primary missions basic energy sciences or defense). DOE is currently meeting most of its short-term requirements. However, in the long-term (next 5 to 10 years) there will be a shortfall in available DOE capacity to meet demand. Should the isotope demand grow consistent with the Expert Panel Report, as it has recently, or if DOE’s market share increases, there will be a need for expanded isotope production capacity in the short-term. The commentor is referred to Chapter 2 of Volume 1 for information about facilities considered but dismissed.

1195-2: There are approximately 9 kilograms (19.8 pounds) of plutonium-238 in the U.S. inventory available to support future NASA space missions. Although research to identify other potential fuel sources to support these space exploration missions has been conducted, no viable alternative to using plutonium-238 has been established. Based on NASA guidance to DOE on the potential use of radioisotope power systems for upcoming space missions, it is anticipated that the existing plutonium-238 inventory will be exhausted by approximately 2005.

DOE could purchase plutonium-238 from Russia; however, for supply reliability reasons and concern of nuclear nonproliferation, DOE’s preference is to establish a domestic plutonium-238 production capability. Section 1.2.2 of Volume 1 was revised to further clarify the purpose and need for reestablishing a domestic plutonium-238 production capability to support NASA space exploration missions.

1195-3: The costs and nuclear nonproliferation impacts of proposed actions are not required by NEPA and CEQ regulations to be included in a PEIS. DOE prepared a separate Cost Report and Nuclear Infrastructure Nonproliferation Impact Assessment to provide additional pertinent information to the Secretary of Energy so that he may make an informed decision with respect to the alternatives presented in the NI PEIS. Such ancillary documents need only be made available to the public prior to any decision being made under CEQ regulations (40 CFR Part 1505.1(e)). Nevertheless, DOE mailed these documents to more than 730 interested parties on August 24 and September 8, 2000, respectively. Both reports

Commentor No. 1195: Mike Conlan (Cont'd)

Response to Commentor No. 1195

were made available immediately upon release on the NE web site (<http://www.nuclear.gov>) and in the public reading rooms. DOE has also provided summaries of the Cost Report and Nuclear Infrastructure Nonproliferation Impact Assessment in Appendixes P and Q, respectively in the Final NI PEIS.

1195-4: The draft “Waste Minimization and Management Plan for the Fast Flux Test Facility” (May 2000) was referenced in the NI PEIS and was available prior to the public hearings.

Commentor No. 1196: Dennis L. Cresswell

From: DennisCresswell@aol.com%internet
[SMTP:DENNISCRESSWELL@AOL.COM]
Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2000 10:17:52 AM
To: INFRASTRUCTURE_PEIS, NUCLEAR
Subject: Restart FFTF
Auto forwarded by a Rule

Ladies and Gentlemen _

I want to go on record in support of restarting the Fast Flux Test Facility. The United States needs a reliable supply of medical isotopes, and needs to have a facility to support experiments with new, promising cancer_fighting isotopes that are not presently available. The United States should be leading the world in developing new cancer treatments, rather than depending on foreign sources for many of the isotopes we presently use in medicine.

I believe that if DOE shuts down the FFTF permanently, it would deny the Tri_Cities an entire cancer_treatment industry that would surely develop here. I would also like to see FFTF used for the types of nuclear research that were conducted there before the facility was placed on standby. A world_class research reactor operating here would be a perfect complement to our present research community that has been led and fostered by DOE.

I was disappointed when DOE passed up the opportunity to privatize the reactor a few years ago, and I will be deeply disappointed if it is permanently closed. It is a unique and valuable asset that should be put to good use, and the decision about its future should be based on sound science rather than emotion.

Dennis L. Cresswell
560 Spengler Rd., Unit I
Richland, Washington 99352

Response to Commentor No. 1196

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 1196-1 | 1196-1: DOE notes the commentor's support for Alternative 1, Restart FFTF. |
| 1196-2 | 1196-2: DOE notes the commentor's support for the use of FFTF for nuclear research and for privatization of the FFTF. |
| 1196-3 | 1196-3: DOE notes the commentor's views. DOE's Record of Decision for the NI PEIS will be based on a number of factors including environmental impacts, public input, costs, nonproliferation impacts, schedules, technical assurance, and other policy and programmatic objectives. |

Commentor No. 1197: Mary Jean Brady

From: Brady_Power[SMTP:BRADYMJ@CNW.COM]
 Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2000 10:33:25 AM
 To: INFRASTRUCTURE_PEIS, NUCLEAR
 Subject: hanford ffff
 Auto forwarded by a Rule

Dear Collette Brown/Secretary Richardson,

Please accept the following as public comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the Nuclear Infrastructure EIS.

As a citizen of the Pacific Northwest, I am deeply concerned about the United States Department of Energy's proposal to restart Hanford's Fast Flux Test Facility Nuclear Reactor. I wish to have my values incorporated into the formal administrative record and taken into consideration when adopting the final record of decision. I also want you to respond to my concerns before you make your record of decision.

Considering Hanford's overwhelming problems, including the crisis with tank waste treatment, as well as the damage caused by and radiation released from the Hanford wildfire, restarting FFTF is absolutely unacceptable. We must deal with the waste already at Hanford and focus on the clean_up mission. FFTF maintenance has already gobbled up \$100 million in clean_up money and distracted from desperately needed clean_up. Tank wastes are already seeping towards the Columbia River. More wastes must not be added to those tanks. Clean_up must be the only priority. We must save the Columbia River and returning salmon runs, the health vein of the Northwest.

Also, I object to the fact that you are asking citizens to comment on an incomplete study. You have not told us how you will deal with non_proliferation issues or additional waste from FFTF. Should FFTF be restarted, that decision will be illegal under Federal law and will be overturned! Do the right thing, shut down FFTF now and save the future of the Columbia River!

1197-1

1197-2

1197-3

1197-2

1197-1

1197-4

1197-1

1197-5

Response to Commentor No. 1197

1197-1: DOE notes the commentor's concerns. This NI PEIS has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) and the related CEQ and DOE implementation regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500 through 1508 and 10 CFR Part 1021), respectively. DOE prepared a separate Nuclear Infrastructure Nonproliferation Impact Assessment to provide additional pertinent information to the Secretary of Energy so that he may make an informed decision with respect to the alternatives presented in the NI PEIS. Such an ancillary document need only be made available to the public prior to any decision being made under CEQ regulations (40 CFR Part 1505.1(e)). Nevertheless, DOE mailed this document to about 730 interested parties on September 8, 2000. The report was made available immediately upon release on the NE web site (<http://www.nuclear.gov>) and in the public reading rooms. DOE has also provided a summary of the Nuclear Infrastructure Nonproliferation Impact Assessment in Appendix Q in the Final NI PEIS. DOE gave equal consideration to all comments. In preparing the Final NI PEIS, DOE carefully considered comments received from the public. DOE's Record of Decision for the NI PEIS will be based on a number of factors including environmental impacts, public input, costs, nonproliferation impacts, schedules, technical assurance, and other policy and programmatic objectives. DOE's decision will be made in compliance with applicable laws and regulations, including CEQ Implementation Regulations (40 CFR 1505.1).

1197-2: DOE notes the commentor's opposition to Alternative 1, Restart FFTF, and concerns regarding the existing cleanup mission at Hanford and the potential risk of contamination to the Columbia River. Although beyond the scope of this NI PEIS, ongoing activities to remediate existing contamination at Hanford are high priority to DOE. The Hanford Site environmental restoration activities are conducted in accordance with the Tri-Party Agreement (i.e., Washington State Department of Ecology, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Department of Energy). This agreement specifies milestones and schedules for restoration of all parts of the Hanford Site. DOE is fully committed to honoring this agreement.

The U.S. Congress funds the Hanford cleanup through the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management (EM), and the FFTF through the Office of Nuclear Energy, Science and Technology (NE). The

Commentor No. 1197: Mary Jean Brady (Cont'd)

I know you attempt to allow for public comment but this issue affects all of us in Washington state and not just neighboring counties and metro areas. I fear for the health of the nearby counties already and potentially all of us here in the Northwest.

Sincerely,

Mary Jean Brady

bradymj@cnw.com

1197-1

Response to Commentor No. 1197

nuclear infrastructure missions described in Section 1.2 of Volume 1 would also be funded by NE, which has no funding connection to Hanford cleanup activities. As stated in Section N.3.2, implementation of the nuclear infrastructure alternatives would not divert or reprogram budgeted funds designated for Hanford cleanup, regardless of the alternative(s) selected.

In regards to the Hanford wildfire of 2000, the DOE Richland Operations Office, the State of Washington Department of Health, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency performed environmental monitoring on and around the Site to assess potential radiological impacts. The wildfire did not cause a release of radioactive materials from any Hanford facilities but did result in resuspension of radioactive materials which were already in the environment. The very low levels of radioactive materials that were resuspended were slightly above natural background levels and required several days of analysis to quantify. Information on this event has been made available to the public and can be accessed at <http://www.Hanford.gov/envmon/indes.html>. This site also provides a link to information on the independent offsite air monitoring that was conducted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

FFTF is approximately 4.5 miles from the Columbia River. There are no discharges to the river from FFTF and no radioactive or hazardous discharges to groundwater. As indicated in analyses presented in Chapter 4 of Volume 1 (e.g., Sections 4.3.1.1.4, 4.3.3.1.4, 4.4.3.1.4, 4.5.3.2.4, and 4.6.3.2.4), there would be no discernible impacts to groundwater or surface water quality at Hanford from operation of Hanford facilities that would support the nuclear infrastructure missions described in Section 1.2 of Volume 1.

None of the alternatives considered by this PEIS will add to the tank waste volume.

1197-3: DOE notes the commentor's opposition to Alternative 1, Restart FFTF, and support for Alternative 5, Permanently Deactivate FFTF.

1197-4: Management of wastes that would be generated under implementation of Alternative 1 (Restart FFTF) is discussed in Section 4.3 of Volume 1 (e.g., see Section 4.3.1.1.13). Section 4.3.1.1.13 was revised to clarify that, the Hanford waste management infrastructure is analyzed in this PEIS for the management of waste resulting from FFTF restart and

Commentor No. 1197: Mary Jean Brady (Cont'd)

Response to Commentor No. 1197

operation. This analysis is consistent with policy and DOE Order 435.1, that DOE radioactive waste shall be treated, stored, and in the case of low-level waste, disposed of at the site where the waste is generated, if practical; or at another DOE facility. However, if DOE determines that use of the Hanford waste management infrastructure or other DOE sites is not practical or cost effective, DOE may issue an exemption under DOE Order 435.1 for the use of non-DOE facilities (i.e., commercial facilities) to store, treat, and dispose of such waste generated from the restart and operation of FFTF. In addition, Section 4.3.3.1.13 and 4.4.3.1.13 also address the potential impacts associated with the waste generated from the target fabrication and processing in FMEF and how this waste would be managed at the site.

1197-5: See the response to comment 1197-3.

Commentor No. 1198: Judith A. Guse

From: GOOSIE1515@aol.com%internet
[SMTP:GOOSIE1515@AOL.COM]
Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2000 10:36:21 AM
To: INFRASTRUCTURE_PEIS, NUCLEAR
Subject: Support Restart of FFTF
Auto forwarded by a Rule

I support the restart of FFTF to make isotopes for medical and industrial research. Thanks.

Sincerely Yours,

Judith A. Guse
1515 S. Garfield PL
Kennewick, WA 99337

1198-1

Response to Commentor No. 1198

1198-1: DOE notes the commentor's support for Alternative 1, Restart FFTF.

Commentor No. 1199: Alexander R. Stevens

From: A. Stevens[SMTP:ASTEVEN@U.WASHINGTON.EDU]
 Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2000 10:45:34 AM
 To: INFRASTRUCTURE_PEIS, NUCLEAR
 Subject: FFTF
 Auto forwarded by a Rule

Colette Brown, U.S. DOE:

Having thought about this problem for years, and attending a public meeting in Seattle two years ago, I am very much against restarting the FFTF. The resumption of plutonium production, which has been proven unnecessary for our defense needs, will necessarily lead to more nuclear wastes in the Hanford area, and delay the already much delayed cleanup.

The argument for production of medical isotopes is obviously spurious, and only included to make the restart palatable to the public. At the public meeting at the Seattle Center, the head of the University of Washington Medical Isotope division stated clearly that this facility was not needed, that there were adequate sites for isotope production elsewhere.

I urge support for alternative #5

DO NOT RESTART THE FFTF

Alexander R. Stevens MD
 5711 N.E. 77th St.
 Seattle WA 98115
 206_525_8895

1199-1

1199-2

1199-3

1199-4

1199-5

Response to Commentor No. 1199

1199-1: DOE notes the commentor's opposition to Alternative 1, Restart FFTF, and support for Alternative 5, Permanently Deactivate FFTF.

1199-2: The purpose of the NI PEIS is to evaluate the environmental impacts of reasonable alternatives to enhancing DOE's existing nuclear facility infrastructure to support production of isotopes for medical, research, and industrial uses, production of plutonium-238 for use in future NASA space exploration missions, and U.S. nuclear research and development needs for civilian application. No component of the proposed action is for the purpose of supporting defense or weapons-related missions.

The NI PEIS addressed the environmental impacts due to the treatment, storage, and disposal of the waste generated by the proposed action for all alternatives and alternative options. Waste minimization programs at each of the proposed sites are also addressed. These programs will be implemented for the alternative selected in the Record of Decision. The waste generated from any of the proposed alternatives in the NI PEIS will be managed (i.e., treated, stored and disposed) in a safe and environmentally protective manner and in compliance with all applicable Federal and state laws and regulations and applicable DOE orders.

1199-3: DOE notes the commentor's concerns regarding the existing cleanup mission at Hanford. Although beyond the scope of this NI PEIS, ongoing activities to remediate existing contamination at Hanford are high priority to DOE. The Hanford Site environmental restoration activities are conducted in accordance with the Tri-Party Agreement (i.e., Washington State Department of Ecology, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Department of Energy). This agreement specifies milestones and schedules for restoration of all parts of the Hanford Site. DOE is fully committed to honoring this agreement. The alternatives delineated in the NI PEIS would not have an impact on Hanford cleanup activities.

1199-4: Currently, approximately 50 percent of DOE's isotope production capability is being used. Much of the remaining isotope production capability is dispersed throughout the DOE complex. This capability supports secondary missions, but cannot be effectively used due to the operating constraints associated with the facilities' primary missions basic energy sciences or defense). DOE is currently meeting most of its short-term requirements. However, in the long-term (next 5 to 10 years) there will be a shortfall in available DOE capacity to meet demand. Should the isotope demand grow consistent with the Expert Panel Report, as it has

Commentor No. 1199: Alexander R. Stevens (Cont'd)

Response to Commentor No. 1199

recently, or if DOE's market share increases, there will be a need for expanded isotope production capacity in the short-term.

1199-5: See response to comment 1199-1.

Commentor No. 1200: Nancy Stiefel

From: Nancy Stiefel[SMTP:NAS5580@IRCC.NET]
 Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2000 10:53:38 AM
 To: INFRASTRUCTURE_PEIS, NUCLEAR
 Cc: globalnet@mindspring.com%internet
 Subject: PLU_238
 Auto forwarded by a Rule

NASA is not doing enough to develop the use of solar power for its space missions. The idea of using nuclear power in space is completely objectionable. Plu_238, one of the most deadly materials known to human kind, should be completely banned from any space mission. Its use is dangerous, costly, and ludicrous in light of the advancements in alternative power sources (particularly by the European Space Agency). No expansion of production facilities for plu_238 should even be contemplated. Do not re_establish a domestic capability for producing and processing plu_238.

Your serious consideration of this viewpoint is expected and appreciated.

1200-1**1200-2*****Response to Commentor No. 1200***

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- 1200-1:** DOE notes the commentor's concern for NASA's use of nuclear materials for space missions and interest in the development of alternative energy sources for space missions, although issues such as NASA research priorities are beyond the scope of this PEIS. Through a Memorandum of Understanding with NASA, DOE provides radioisotope power systems, and the plutonium-238 that fuels them, for space missions that require or would be enhanced by their use. These radioisotope power systems have been used for almost 40 years, and have repeatedly demonstrated their performance, safety, and reliability in various NASA space missions. NASA establishes the need and requirements for space missions and undergoes a thorough NEPA evaluation for each launch.
- 1200-2:** DOE notes the commentor's opposition to establishing a domestic capability for producing plutonium-238. DOE could purchase plutonium-238 from Russia; however, for supply reliability reasons and concern of nuclear nonproliferation, DOE's preference is to establish a domestic plutonium-238 production capability. Section 1.2.2 of Volume 1 was revised to further clarify the purpose and need for reestablishing a domestic plutonium-238 production capability to support NASA space exploration missions.

Commentor No. 1201: Joanna Kirkpatrick

From: jkirk@micron.net%internet[SMTP:JKIRK@MICRON.NET]
Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2000 12:18:10 PM
To: INFRASTRUCTURE_PEIS, NUCLEAR
Cc: mike.simpson@mail.house.gov%internet;
ask.helen@mail.house.gov%internet; larry_craig@craig.senate.gov%internet
Subject: Public Comment on pursuing Pu_238 production in Idaho at INEEL Auto forwarded by a Rule

Ms. Colette Brown
DOE, Office of Space and Defense Power Systems

Dear Ms Brown:

I write as a citizen of teh state of Idaho to object emphatically to DOE's plant ot re_proces sputoinium, possibly in Idaho. I object to it being done at Hanfrod, too, but I can only speak as a citizen of Idaho at this time.

1201-1

Reprocessing is not acceptable and should not be considered at INEEL or any other facility

1201-2

The place where you would like to pursue this effort at INEEL, Building 666, is a decrepit and highly contaminated building and should be decommissioned in a manner that is protective of human health and the environment. Decommissioned I repeat, NOT USED AGAIN.

1201-3

Americans form all walks of life and locaitons have consistently opposed further and continued Plutonium_238 production. It is unnecessary and, worse, its use is too risky.

1201-4

Using ATR at INEEL would interfere with its current mission of producing medical and industrial isotopes.

1201-5

Please extend the comment deadline by 30 days. You have not allowed enough time for citizens to become informed and to form their views and communicate them to your department.

Joanna Kirkpatrick, 2005 N 17th St, Boise Id 83702

Response to Commentor No. 1201

1201-1: The commentor’s position concerning production of plutonium-238 at Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory and the Hanford Site is noted. The purpose of this NI PEIS is to evaluate the environmental impacts of a range of reasonable alternatives to fulfill the requirements of the missions described in Section 1.2 of Volume 1. The Record of Decision for the PEIS will be based on a number of factors including environmental impacts, public input, costs, nonproliferation impacts, schedules, technical assurance, and other policy and programmatic objectives.

1201-2: DOE would not conduct any reprocessing to produce weapons-grade plutonium under any of the alternatives considered under this programmatic environmental impact statement. The alternatives do include processing of target materials used to produce isotopes for medical and industrial uses, plutonium-238 for space missions, and nuclear materials research and development. Sections 4.3.1.1.13; 4.3.2.1.13; 4.3.3.1.13; and 4.4.3.1.13 were revised to clarify the waste management approach for waste resulting from processing of target materials for plutonium-238 production.

1201-3: DOE notes the commentor’s opposition to enhancing its existing nuclear facility infrastructure to support production of plutonium-238 for use in future NASA space exploration missions. Section 1.2.2 of Volume 1 was revised to clarify the purpose and need for reestablishing a domestic plutonium-238 production capability to support NASA space exploration missions.

Potential health and safety impacts associated with normal operations, facility accidents, and transportation as a result of the proposed production of plutonium-238 are relatively low and are discussed in detail in Chapter 4 of Volume 1 and appendixes H, I, and J of Volume 2 in the Final NI PEIS. For over 30 years, radioisotope power systems have repeatedly demonstrated their performance, safety, and reliability in various NASA space missions. However, potential health and safety impacts associated with future launches of spacecraft utilizing plutonium-238 are not within the scope of the NI PEIS analysis, but would be addressed in the specific NEPA documentation prepared by NASA in support of such missions.

1201-4: As stated in EIS Volume 1, Section 2.3.1.2, ATR would continue to meet its medical and industrial radioisotope production mission for the no

Commentor No. 1201: Joanna Kirkpatrick (Cont'd)

Response to Commentor No. 1201

action and most other alternatives considered where ATR is not used for the production of plutonium-238. If ATR were to be used as a production facility for plutonium-238 (options 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, and 9 under Alternative 2), it would support medical and industrial radioisotope production to the extent possible. DOE would try to minimize the impact of the new mission on current medical and industrial radioisotope production.

- 1201-5:** DOE notes the commentor's request for extension of the public comment period. The Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) "Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act" (40 CFR 1506.10(c)) require that a minimum of 45 days be allowed for public comment on the Draft NI PEIS. As stated in the Notice of Availability (65 FR 46443 et seq.), the public comment period began on July 28, 2000 and continued to September 18, 2000. In preparing the Final PEIS, DOE has assessed and considered both oral and written comments received on the Draft PEIS during the public comment period and has responded to these comments in the Final PEIS. Volume 3 of the NI PEIS contains public comments received on the NI PEIS and DOE responses to those comments. Moreover, late comments were considered to the extent practicable.

Commentor No. 1202: Keith Hoeft

From: keith hoeft[SMTP:KSHOEFT@MSN.COM]
Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2000 12:25:00 PM
To: INFRASTRUCTURE_PEIS, NUCLEAR
Subject: FFTF Radio Isotopes
Auto forwarded by a Rule

I urge you to restart the FFTF reactor for the purpose of producing radio isotopes for medical purposes. I am a cancer opatient who has undergone chemotherapy, radidation, stem cell transplant and now raio isotpe teatment. The most succesful todate has been the radioi isotope. It may be the only hope for many of us. To have such a capability available and being used for the good of those in need only makes sense.

1202-1

Response to Commentor No. 1202

1202-1: DOE notes the commentor's support for Alternative 1, Restart FFTF.

Commentor No. 1203: Karolynn Flynn

From: Roger Katz[SMTP:RKATZ@HALCYON.COM]
Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2000 12:32:25 PM
To: INFRASTRUCTURE_PEIS, NUCLEAR
Subject: No More!
Auto forwarded by a Rule

SUPPORT FOR ALTERNATIVE #5: SHUT DOWN FFTF!!
SUPPORT FOR ALTERNATIVE #5:
SHUT DOWN FFTF!!

Listen to reason. No more, No more.

Sincerely,

Karolynn Flynn
Roger Katz

1203-1**Response to Commentor No. 1203**

1203-1: DOE notes the commentor's support for Alternative 5, Permanently Deactivate FFTF.

Commentor No. 1204: Judith Starbuck

From: Peter Greenfield/Judith Starbuck
[SMTP:PGJS@HALCYON.COM]
Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2000 1:00:33 PM
To: INFRASTRUCTURE_PEIS, NUCLEAR
Subject: Hanford reactor
Auto forwarded by a Rule

Colette E. Brown, U.S. Department of Energy:

I want to register my belief that the FFTF at Hanford should not be restarted. I urge you to adopt Alternative #5. We shouldn't do anything to deter Hanford from cleaning up the waste already present at the site rather than creating more. Future demands for medical isotopes can be met using other facilities.

Thank you,

Judith Starbuck
1126 Grand Avenue
Seattle, WA 98122

1204-1

1204-2

1204-3

Response to Commentor No. 1204

- 1204-1:** DOE notes the commentor's support for Alternative 5, Permanently Deactivate FFTF.
- 1204-2:** DOE notes the commentor's concerns regarding the existing cleanup mission at Hanford. Although beyond the scope of this NI PEIS, ongoing Hanford cleanup activities are high priority to DOE. Hanford Site environmental restoration activities are conducted in accordance with the Tri-Party Agreement (i.e., Washington State Department of Ecology, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Department of Energy). This agreement specifies milestones and schedules for restoration of all parts of the Hanford Site. DOE is fully committed to honoring this agreement. The alternatives delineated in the NI PEIS would not have an impact on Hanford cleanup activities.
- 1204-3:** Currently, about 50 percent of DOE's isotope production capability is being used. Much of the remaining isotope production capability is dispersed throughout the DOE complex. This capability supports secondary missions, but cannot be effectively used due to the operating constraints associated with the facilities' primary missions (basic energy sciences or defense). DOE is currently meeting most of its short-term requirements. However, in the long-term (next 5 to 10 years) there will be a shortfall in available DOE capacity to meet demand. Should the isotope demand grow consistent with the Expert Panel Report, as it has recently, or if DOE's market share increases, there will be a need for expanded isotope production capacity in the short-term.

**Commentor No. 1205: Ken Dobbin, Councilman,
City of West Richland, WA**

From: KDDNEP@aol.com%internet
[SMTP:KDDNEP@AOL.COM]
Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2000 1:57:15 AM
To: INFRASTRUCTURE_PEIS, NUCLEAR
Subject: FFTF Thanks
Auto forwarded by a Rule

Dear Ms Brown:

Thanks for a very professional public hearing in Richland on August 31. Everyone I have talked to since that meeting has commented on how well it was run and that they believe all the technical information needed to justify an FFTF restart now has been presented in public forum.

I am looking forward to the final PEIS choosing to restart the FFTF as the preferred alternative. I am also confident that the Secretary has ample justification now to make the ROD to restart the FFTF before the end of the year.

I am gaining confidence that the DOE is looking at the total nuclear infrastructure needs of our nation and will assign several of the missions to the FFTF. In the past, the FFTF was only considered for one mission at a time will all the operating costs allocated to that mission. Multi_missions is a way of distributing that cost.

I also pray that the DOE includes cost savings for our health care system, especially medicare, from the isotopes that the FFTF can generate. Even the elected officials in the Seattle area can agree with that mission that could save us Americans billions of dollars.

Thanks for your careful consideration.

Ken Dobbin, Councilman
City of West Richland, WA
email: kddnep@aol.com

1205-1

1205-1: DOE notes the commentor's remarks concerning the Richland, Washington public hearing.

1205-2: DOE notes the commentor's support for Alternative 1, Restart FFTF.

The commentor is correct in stating that FFTF would be assigned more than one mission. As stated in Section 2.5.2 of Volume 1, FFTF would be used for the three stated missions.

1205-2

1205-3: DOE notes the commentor's views on the costs and benefits of the proposed production of medical radioisotopes. The estimated costs of the range of reasonable alternatives are presented in the Cost Report, summarized in Appendix P of the Final NI PEIS. However, the Cost Report is not a cost-benefit analysis. While it is reasonable to believe that the benefits of medical isotopes are substantial, the purpose of this NI PEIS is to describe the nuclear infrastructure missions (Section 1.2 of Volume 1), a range of reasonable alternatives for satisfying the mission requirements (Section 2.5 of Volume 1), and the environmental impacts that would result from implementation of the alternatives. According to 40 CFR Section 1502.23, if a cost-benefit analysis exists, it must be reported and summarized in the NI PEIS.

1205-3

Response to Commentor No. 1205

Commentor No. 1206: Jeanne Koster

From: SD Peace and Justice[SMTP:SDPJC@DAILYPOST.COM]
 Sent: Monday, September 11, 2000 5:33:02 PM
 To: INFRASTRUCTURE_PEIS, NUCLEAR
 Cc: globalnet@mindspring.com%internet
 Subject: Draft PEIS on PU_238 for space missions
 Auto forwarded by a Rule

TO: Collette E. Brown, US Department of Energy, NE_50

Dear Ms. Brown:

It is proposed to possibly re_start the Fast Flux Test Facility at Hanford, WA, to supply Plutonium_238 fuel for deep space exploration. INEL and ORNL are also under consideration for this function. Previously, NASA had announced it would rely on purchase of plutonium from from Russia pursuant to a decommissioning and disposal agreement between Russia and the United States. Now, there is evidently worry that the plutonium_containing materials from Russia might not be forthcoming.

Question: Why worry that the Russians won't deliver the plutonium? The worry seems speculative indeed. When have the Russians signaled reluctance, except to complain about the great cost of safe transport, which is more reasonably interpreted as a broad hint that the US should fork over more monetary aid than as a refusal to reward our expectations of loads of Russian plutonium arriving on US shores. The last I heard on the subject was positive. According to an Associated Press story, on September 1 Vice President Gore and Russian Prime Minister Kasyanov signed an agreement that will "gain" the United States 34 tons of the stuff, and Congress has approved \$200 million to help the Russians get it to us.

Second question: But, supposing there is Russian reluctance, what would be the motivation of it? Given that plutonium is a dire environmental liability wherever it exists, why on earth would the Russians pass up a golden opportunity to dump their liability

1206-1

1206-2

Response to Commentor No. 1206

1206-1: The 34 tons of plutonium referred to by the commentor is weapons-grade plutonium that the Russians have declared surplus and plan to disposition. The \$200 million that Congress approved will be used to assist the Russians in building a pit disassembly and conversion facility in Russia to disassemble pits (a weapons component) and convert the recovered plutonium into plutonium dioxide suitable for disposition. The purpose of the NI PEIS is to evaluate the environmental impacts of a range of reasonable alternatives to fulfill the DOE missions, one of which is the domestic production of plutonium-238. Plutonium-238, used to support NASA space missions, is not weapons-grade plutonium (i.e., plutonium-239).

1206-2: As discussed in Section 1.2 of Volume 1, plutonium-238 would be produced to support NASA's deep space missions. Plutonium-238 is not used to produce nuclear weapons. All missions considered in the NI PEIS are for civilian purposes. The Russians have not displayed any reluctance to sell plutonium-238 to the U.S. One of DOE's objectives is to develop

Commentor No. 1206: Jeanne Koster (Cont'd)

on the United States and get paid for doing so? Could our government be speculating that the Russians may become reluctant to cooperate by plutonium delivery because the Russians believe we have an ultimate goal beyond the extremely modest power needs of a handful of deep space exploration vehicles? What if the Russians should perceive our purpose in using the plutonium to be against their national interest?

Third question: How so? Well, they can log on to the US Space Command's very own website [www.peterson.af.mil/usspace] and take a gander at plans to enforce US interest against Russian or any other interest. There they will find "Vision for 2020" and other documents describing the Pentagon's ambition to absolutely control space with space_based weaponry and associated supports that can be most readily powered by plutonium. They can read plain as day that space jockeys in the Pentagon are intent on positioning the US as Master of the Universe, capable of enforcing US will. Period. They can read in these documents an upfront and unabashed imperialist and mercantilist motivation, a resolve to protect US interest quite broadly interpreted, including economic as well as strictly strategic military interest.

So, maybe its not unreasonable to speculate that a near_future nationalist government in Russia would interpret development of plutonium power for deep space exploration as merely a "Trojan horse" that will enable DOE to accomplish military aims. Contextual considerations, such as overlap in NASA and DOE aims, need to be explicitly treated in the draft PEIS. Surely, you understand how the absence of explicit treatment could skew the public comment.

On the subject of displeasing the Russians, it must be mentioned that a Hanford FFTF restart will produce isotopes usable in tactical nuclear weapons. It's no secret that the United States contemplates use of tactical nuclear weapons. Many in the community of nations, including, presumably, most of our allies, would find pursuit of such a US ambition objectionable. The PEIS

**1206-2
(Cont'd)**

1206-3

Response to Commentor No. 1206

U.S. capabilities to support NASA's future space missions - a capability that would not be subject to reliance on the goodwill of other nations. Plutonium-238, like any other resource with monetary value, is limited in supply, and the Russian's continued willingness to sell their resources is necessarily uncertain. The terms of any sales beyond the existing contract would be subject to new contractual negotiations.

1206-3: DOE notes the commentor's views. Consistent with its mandates under the Atomic Energy Act, DOE is proposing this enhancement for the purposes of addressing three primary needs:

1) to support the increased domestic production of isotopes for medical, research, and industrial uses, as initially identified by a panel of experts in the medical field and reaffirmed by the Nuclear Energy Research Advisory Committee;

2) to support future NASA space exploration missions by re-establishing a domestic capability to produce plutonium-238, a fuel source that is required for deep space missions and for which the U.S. has no long-term assured supply; and

3) to support civilian nuclear energy research and development in order to maintain the clean, safe, and reliable use of nuclear power as a viable component of the United States' energy portfolio. NASA establishes the need and requirements for space missions and undergoes a thorough NEPA evaluation for each launch. No component of the proposed action is for the purpose of producing tritium, nor is it for the purpose of supporting any other defense or weapons-related mission.

Commentor No. 1206: Jeanne Koster (Cont'd)

needs to discuss the FFTF for isotope production that could eventuate in that class of weapons.

Many objections remain against use of plutonium-powered generators for space exploration. I am sure that others' comments will treat those objections well. I am confining this comment chiefly to plea for your agency to lay all the cards on the table in your PEIS, including cards about the military potential of decisions that NASA takes. Even if NASA itself disavows any intention to enable military advances, the potential for such advances inherent in a decision to develop plutonium generators for space vehicles or to re_start the Hanford FFTF must be examined. Otherwise NASA will not fully comply with the mandate of the National Environmental Policy Act.

Sincerely,
Jeanne Koster
Director
South Dakota Peace & Justice Center
PO Box 405
Watertown, SD 57201
(605)882_2822; same for fax
sdpjc@dailypost.com

**1206-3
(Cont'd)**

Response to Commentor No. 1206

Commentor No. 1207: Bob Schenter

From: RESchenter@aol.com%internet
[SMTP:RESCHENTER@AOL.COM]
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2000 4:18:01 PM
To: INFRASTRUCTURE_PEIS, NUCLEAR
Cc: cmi@owt.com%internet; RESchenter@aol.com%internet
Subject: FFTF RESTART!
Auto forwarded by a Rule

Dear Ms. Brownd:

Please restart FFTF. Save lives.

Bob Schenter
Richland Wa 99352

1207-1**Response to Commentor No. 1207**

1207-1: DOE notes the commentor's support for Alternative 1, Restart FFTF.

Commentor No. 1208: Sunny Miller

From: Traprock Peace Center
[SMTP:TRAPROCK@CROCKER.COM]
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2000 5:13:11 PM
To: INFRASTRUCTURE_PEIS, NUCLEAR
Subject: Expanded Plutonium Production
Auto forwarded by a Rule

I am very sorry to read about further military involvement in NASA space missions. The use of space for military purposes violates international treaties. Our arming of the heavens is an unworthy direction, but of course there are profits to be made. I

1208-1

I object to expanded production of plutonium for any purposes. Monies should be redirected toward environmental and health concerns as we move from the nuclear age to the information age. Don't you agree?

1208-2

Best regards,

Sunny Miller

Response to Commentor No. 1208

1208-1: DOE notes the commentor's objection to the use of space for defense purposes. None of the DOE missions described in this PEIS is weapons- or defense-related.

1208-2: DOE notes the commentor's opposition to the production of plutonium 238 for any purpose. Through a Memorandum of Understanding with NASA, DOE provides radioisotope power systems, and the plutonium-238 that fuels them, for space missions that require or would be enhanced by their use. In addition, under the National Space Policy issued by the Office of Science and Technology Policy in September 1996, and consistent with DOE's charter under the Atomic Energy Act, DOE is responsible for maintaining the capability to provide the plutonium-238 needed to support these missions. There are approximately 9 kilograms (19.8 pounds) of plutonium-238 in the U.S. inventory available to support future NASA space missions; no viable alternative to using plutonium-238 to support these missions currently exists. Based on NASA guidance to DOE on the potential use of radioisotope power systems for upcoming space missions, it is anticipated that the existing plutonium-238 inventory will be exhausted by approximately 2005. Without an assured domestic supply of plutonium-238, DOE's ability to support future NASA space exploration missions may be lost. Section 1.2.2 of Volume 1 was revised to further clarify the purpose and need for reestablishing a domestic plutonium-238 production capability to support NASA space exploration missions.

Commentor No. 1209: W. H. Barley

From: William H Barley[SMTP:WHBARLEY@GTE.NET]
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2000 5:49:51 PM
To: INFRASTRUCTURE_PEIS, NUCLEAR
Subject: FFTF restart
Auto forwarded by a Rule

I totally support the restart of FFTF. The need for medical and research isotopes will only grow as our population ages. We should not let this valuable resource slip away. This country has been allowing other countries to surpass it in nuclear technology. Closure of FFTF would be just another example of poor future planning on our part.

W. H. Barley
9658 E Mark Ln
Scottsdale, AZ 85262

1209-1***Response to Commentor No. 1209***

1209-1: DOE notes the commentor's support for Alternative 1, Restart FFTF.

Commentor No. 1210: Dale McNally

From: Dale_W_McNally@rl.gov%internet
 [SMTP:DALE_W_MCNALLY@RL.GOV]
 Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2000 6:11:39 PM
 To: INFRASTRUCTURE_PEIS, NUCLEAR
 Cc: James_N_Jim_Pagliari@rl.gov%internet
 Subject: FFTF Restart _Vital to Medical Isotopes and a wise economic move.
 Auto forwarded by a Rule

What I don't understand is why we are having to explain why FFTF should be restarted. Isn't there enough scientific information in the community of Nuclear Power, etc to understand the value of FFTF. The medical isotopes is vital, necessary and definitely non_proliferation. I would hope that alone is enough to get the decision makers "off the dime" and onto ways we can help our communities and country, rather than hinder them.

Another problem I see is the bold exaggeration and outright false and misleading information given out by the HEAL Organization and Mr. Pollet. Someone other than his "opponents" here at Hanford should soon be educated enough to sift through the jargon and explain the facts to the average "Joe Q. Public". I thought getting the facts, evaluating the information that comes in, and reaching a valid decision for the best interest of the people was the purpose of the EIS process. Why doesn't that happen? It seems to me, we have let the process deteriorate into a mail in response type of bureaucratic nightmare, hodgepodge of half_truths and innuendos (sometimes from both sides), from the "non_nukes" who seem to be anti anything nuclear.

Response to Commentor No. 1210

-
- 1210-1** **1210-1:** DOE notes the commentor's views and concerns. DOE's Record of Decision for the NI PEIS will be based on a number of factors including environmental impacts, public input, costs, nonproliferation impacts, schedules, technical assurance, and other policy and programmatic objectives.
- 1210-2:** DOE notes the commentor's support for Alternative 1, Restart FFTF.
- 1210-3:** DOE notes the commentor's support for nuclear education and materials research programs. The commentor's support for nuclear power is also noted. It is the current policy of the United States that clean, safe, reliable nuclear power continue as a viable component of the country's energy portfolio. In recognition of this need, the government has initiated nuclear energy research and development programs to address potential long-term barriers to expanded use of nuclear power (e.g., nuclear waste, proliferation, safety, and economics) and to ensure that current nuclear power plants can continue to deliver adequate and affordable energy supplies. An enhanced DOE nuclear facility infrastructure is required to support such nuclear energy research and development for civilian applications.

Commentor No. 1210: Dale McNally (Cont'd)

Please register my vote to help the people, by restarting FFTF, the very valuable piece of expensive equipment. Then register my suggestion to start evaluating the information and bring back the educational and testing programs which have provided tremendous safety information for metal brittleness, etc. from the effects of radiation. It seems to me the safety and clean air folks would eventually realize the value of the electricity produced also, from nuclear power, as compared to coal fired power plants. Enough for now,

Sincerely,
Dale McNally

1210-2**1210-3**

Response to Commentor No. 1210

Commentor No. 1211: Mary Beth Sullivan

From: Mary Beth Sullivan[SMTP:MBSULL@MINDSPRING.COM]
 Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2000 8:14:06 PM
 To: INFRASTRUCTURE_PEIS, NUCLEAR
 Subject: PLU_238 Production for Space Missions
 Auto forwarded by a Rule

I write in response to your Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement on DoE Plans for Expanded Production of PLU_238 for Future Space Missions.

I cannot understand the proposal to increase production of plutonium when DoE is faced with the very real ___ as yet unsolved! ___ problem of nuclear waste. While the nuclear waste created by plutonium used in weapons production needs hundreds of billions of dollars more to be cleaned up ___ and while DoE has yet to uncover a plan or process that can contain nuclear waste for the thousands of years it remains active, it seems there is a moral issue that goes unaddressed in the plans to produce plutonium for space exploration.

Your PEIS does not address the fact that the European Space Agency has developed high_efficiency solar cells for deep space missions. Neither NASA nor the DoE demonstrate that enough attention has been given to develop solar power sources for deep space missions.

As a resident of Florida, I am deeply disturbed by the idea that there will be an increase in the number of launches from Cape Canaveral carrying nuclear powered batteries. It is only a matter of time before a launch accident carrying plutonium will occur, with the consequences threatening the air we breathe in Florida.

I am adamantly opposed to increasing production of Plutonium for use in space missions. It is only a matter of time before NASA's and the US Space Command's agendas meet, and this plutonium is used to support weapons in space.

Response to Commentor No. 1211

1211-1: DOE notes the commentor's concern for NASA's use of nuclear materials for space missions and concern over nuclear waste. Through a Memorandum of Understanding with NASA, DOE provides radioisotope power systems, and the plutonium-238 that fuels them, for space missions that require or would be enhanced by their use. These radioisotope power systems have been used for almost 40 years, and have repeatedly demonstrated their performance, safety, and reliability in various NASA space missions. NASA establishes the need and requirements for space missions and undergoes a thorough NEPA evaluation for each launch.

As discussed in Chapter 4 of Volume 1 (e.g., 4.3.1.1.13, 4.3.2.1.13, 4.3.3.1.13), waste will be generated by all of the alternatives, including the No Action Alternative. The NI PEIS addressed the environmental impacts due to the treatment, storage, and disposal of the waste generated by the proposed actions for all alternatives and alternative options. Waste minimization programs at each of the proposed sites are also addressed. These programs will be implemented for the alternative selected in the Record of Decision. DOE activities associated with this program would not impact the schedule or available funding for existing cleanup activities at candidate sites for implementation of the nuclear infrastructure alternatives.

1211-1

Commentor No. 1211: Mary Beth Sullivan (Cont'd)

Halt all plutonium production. Spend the resources in solving the existing problem of nuclear waste.

|| 1211-2
|| 1211-1

Sincerely,

Mary Beth Sullivan
Gainesville, Florida.

Response to Commentor No. 1211

1211-2: DOE notes the commentor's opposition to the DOE production of plutonium-238 for use in future NASA space exploration missions. Section 1.2.2 of Volume 1 was revised to clarify the purpose and need for reestablishing a domestic plutonium-238 production capability to support NASA space exploration missions.

Commentor No. 1212: Bob Roseth

From: Robert M Roseth[SMTP:ROSETH1@JUNO.COM]
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2000 8:54:06 PM
To: INFRASTRUCTURE_PEIS, NUCLEAR
Subject: FFTF restart
Auto forwarded by a Rule

Ms. Brown:

Please add my comments to the ever growing list of those opposing the restart of the Fast Flux Test Facility. We all know that cleaning up Hanford is a losing proposition__ I've long grown weary of the futile efforts by mismanaged firms to try and attempt the impossible. I'm not sure we'll ever see the area free from severe environmental contamination.

But to add to the amount of waste __why? I have attended hearings and am not impressed that this facility is needed. I agree with our Governor and other elected officials who feel the time for using Washington as a nuclear dumping ground has long since passed.

Please renew the commitment to clean up Hanford and stop trying to add to its nuclear burden.

Sincerely,

Bob Roseth
roseth1@juno.com

Response to Commentor No. 1212

1212-1

1212-1: DOE notes the commentor's opposition to Alternative 1, Restart FFTF.

1212-2

1212-2: DOE was tasked by Congress in the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, to "ensure the availability of isotopes for medical, industrial, and research applications, meeting the nuclear material needs of other federal agencies, and undertaking research and development of activities related to development of nuclear power for civilian use." The purpose of this PEIS is to determine the environmental and other impacts to accomplishing this mission from all reasonable existing and new DOE resources. The FFTF at the Hanford Site was one of several existing DOE resources that was assessed for this mission.

DOE notes the commentor's concerns regarding the existing cleanup mission at Hanford. Although beyond the scope of this NI PEIS, ongoing activities to remediate existing contamination at Hanford are high priority to DOE. The Hanford Site environmental restoration activities are conducted in accordance with the Tri-Party Agreement (i.e., Washington State Department of Ecology, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Department of Energy). This agreement specifies milestones and schedules for restoration of all parts of the Hanford Site. DOE is fully committed to honoring this agreement.

The U.S. Congress funds the Hanford cleanup through the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management (EM), and the FFTF through the Office of Nuclear Energy, Science and Technology (NE). The nuclear infrastructure missions described in Section 1.2 of Volume 1 would also be funded by NE, which has no funding connection to Hanford cleanup activities. As stated in Section N.3.2, implementation of the nuclear infrastructure alternatives would not divert or reprogram budgeted funds designated for Hanford cleanup, regardless of the alternative(s) selected.

Commentor No. 1213: Robert L. Owren

From: BOB1O@aol.com%internet[SMTP:BOB1O@AOL.COM]
 Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2000 10:56:32 PM
 To: INFRASTRUCTURE_PEIS, NUCLEAR
 Subject: No Subject
 Auto forwarded by a Rule

I strongly oppose the restarting of the Hanford Nuclear Site for any reason. The government has already spent (wasted) billions of dollars on projects and ideas that have not dealt with the real problems posed by this site, leaking tanks and the immanent contamination of the Columbia River.

It is time to clean it up.

Robert L. Owren
 23404 26th Ave S.
 Des Moines, WA 98198

1213-1

1213-2

Response to Commentor No. 1213

-
- 1213-1:** DOE notes the commentor's opposition to Alternative 1, Restart FFTF.
- 1213-2:** DOE notes the commentor's concerns regarding the existing cleanup mission at Hanford. Although beyond the scope of this NI PEIS, ongoing Hanford cleanup activities are high priority to DOE. Hanford Site environmental restoration activities are conducted in accordance with the Tri-Party Agreement (i.e., Washington State Department of Ecology, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Department of Energy). This agreement specifies milestones and schedules for restoration of all parts of the Hanford Site. DOE is fully committed to honoring this agreement.

Commentor No. 1214: Stan and Sun Noble

From: snoble2[SMTP:SNOBLE2@NETZERO.NET]
Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2000 1:23:39 AM
To: INFRASTRUCTURE_PEIS, NUCLEAR
Subject: Hanford Reactor Activation
Auto forwarded by a Rule

We are very much opposed to the recent consideration of restarting a nuclear reactor on the Hanford Nuclear Reservation. We feel that there is already too much of a risk to future generations of seepage via aquifers to the Columbia River of the nuclear waste currently stored on the site. The creation of even more risk from having an active reactor on the site is something we do not find acceptable as we live downstream from Hanford.

We ask that you abandon any consideration of such a proposal.

Sincerely;

Stan & Sun Noble

1214-1

1214-2

1214-3

1214-1

Response to Commentor No. 1214

1214-1: DOE notes the commentor's opposition to Alternative 1, Restart FFTF.

1214-2: DOE notes the commentor's concerns regarding the existing cleanup mission at Hanford and the risk of contamination to the Columbia River. Although beyond the scope of this NI PEIS, ongoing activities to remediate existing contamination at Hanford are high priority to DOE. The Hanford Site environmental restoration activities are conducted in accordance with the Tri-Party Agreement (i.e., Washington State Department of Ecology, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Department of Energy). This agreement specifies milestones and schedules for restoration of all parts of the Hanford Site. DOE is fully committed to honoring this agreement.

The DOE missions delineated in the NI PEIS would not have an impact on Hanford cleanup activities. FFTF is approximately 4.5 miles from the Columbia River. There are no discharges to the river from FFTF and no radioactive or hazardous discharges to groundwater. As indicated in analyses presented in Chapter 4 of Volume 1 (e.g., Sections 4.3.1.1.4, 4.3.3.1.4, 4.4.3.1.4, 4.5.3.2.4, and 4.6.3.2.4), there would be no discernible impacts to groundwater or surface water quality at Hanford from operation of Hanford facilities that would support the nuclear infrastructure missions described in Section 1.2 of Volume 1.

1214-3: The environmental impacts associated with operation of the FFTF are addressed in detail in Section 4.3 of the NI PEIS. The impacts are shown to be small. These impacts specifically include the risks to human health during normal operations and associated with postulated accidents. Over the 35-year operational period no fatalities would be expected among workers or in the general public in the vicinity of Hanford or at distant locations.

Commentor No. 1215: Bruce Bailey

From: Bruce W Bailey
 [SMTP:BRUCEWBAILEY@JUNO.COM]
 Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2000 2:29:48 AM
 To: INFRASTRUCTURE_PEIS, NUCLEAR
 Subject: FFTF
 Auto forwarded by a Rule

Dear Sirs:

I ABSOLUTELY OPPOSE restarting any of the Hanford reactors, particularly the FFTF, for any reason. The Hanford area has been devastated by the nuclear industry. It needs to be cleaned up, then left alone to recover. It DOES NOT need the unnecessary restarting of the FFTF. Clean up Hanford, don't dirty it further.

Bruce Bailey

1215-1

1215-2

Response to Commentor No. 1215

1215-1: DOE notes the commentor's opposition to Alternative 1, Restart FFTF.

It should be noted that FFTF is the only reactor at Hanford under consideration for restart and is, in fact, the only reactor that could be restarted.

1215-2: DOE notes the commentor's concerns regarding the existing cleanup mission at Hanford. Although beyond the scope of this NI PEIS, ongoing activities to remediate existing contamination at Hanford are high priority to DOE. The Hanford Site environmental restoration activities are conducted in accordance with the Tri-Party Agreement (i.e., Washington State Department of Ecology, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Department of Energy). This agreement specifies milestones and schedules for restoration of all parts of the Hanford Site. DOE is fully committed to honoring this agreement. The DOE missions delineated in the NI PEIS would not have an impact on Hanford cleanup activities.

The NI PEIS addresses the environmental impacts due to the treatment, storage, and disposal of the waste generated for all alternatives and alternative options. Waste minimization programs at each of the proposed sites are also addressed. These programs will be implemented for the alternative selected in the Record of Decision. The waste generated from any of the proposed alternatives in the NI PEIS will be managed (i.e., treated, stored and disposed) in a safe and environmentally protective manner and in compliance with all applicable Federal and state laws and regulations and appropriate DOE orders.

Commentor No. 1394: Linda Johns

Hanford Watch
2285 SE Cypress
Portland, Oregon 97214



Ms. Colette Brown
U.S. Department of Energy
Office of Space and Defense Power Systems
NE-50
19901 Germantown Road
Germantown, Maryland 20874-1290

20874-1290 [Barcode]

**Public comment on Nuclear Infrastructure Draft Programmatic
Environmental Impact Statement (NI PEIS)**

I am opposed to restart of the Fast Flux Test Facility reactor because:

*Clean-up is the goal and no new
hazardous waste should be added to
the problem. Nor should attention
be diverted from that goal.*

Name Linda Johns
Address 11940 SW. Carman
City, state Tigard OR zip 97223

Response to Commentor No. 1394

1394-1

1394-1: DOE notes the commentor's opposition to Alternative 1, Restart FFTF.

1394-2

1394-2: DOE notes the commentor's concerns regarding the existing cleanup mission at Hanford. Although beyond the scope of this NI PEIS, ongoing Hanford cleanup activities are high priority to DOE. Hanford Site environmental restoration activities are conducted in accordance with the Tri-Party Agreement (i.e., Washington State Department of Ecology, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Department of Energy). This agreement specifies milestones and schedules for restoration of all parts of the Hanford Site. DOE is fully committed to honoring this agreement.

Commentor No. 1395: Augusta Gordon

Hanford Watch
2265 SE Cypress
Portland, Oregon 97214



Ms. Colette Brown
U.S. Department of Energy
Office of Space and Defense Power Systems
NE-50
19901 Germantown Road
Germantown, Maryland 20874-1290

0874+1290 [barcode]

Public comment on Nuclear Infrastructure Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (NI PEIS)

I am opposed to restart of the Fast Flux Test Facility reactor because:

Nuclear chemicals cause cancer
and I do not want cancer.
Also the waste is tough to get
rid of and when released into
our environment destroy it.

Name Augusta Gordon
Address 2305 SE 37th Ave
City, state Portland OR Zip 97214

1395-1

1395-2

1395-3

Response to Commentor No. 1395

1395-1: DOE notes the commentor's opposition to Alternative 1, Restart FFTF.

1395-2: The commentor's position on nuclear chemicals is noted. Sections 4.3 through 4.6 of Volume 1 provides the results of the evaluation of potential health impacts that would be expected to result from implementation of a range of reasonable alternatives, including normal operations and a spectrum of accidents that included severe accidents. The environmental analysis showed that radiological and nonradiological risks associated with Hanford operations in support of the nuclear infrastructure would be small.

1395-3: DOE notes the commentor's concern regarding waste generation. The NI PEIS addressed the environmental impacts due to the treatment, storage, and disposal of the waste generated by the proposed action for all alternatives and alternative options. Waste minimization programs at each of the proposed sites are also addressed. These programs will be implemented for the alternative selected in the Record of Decision. The waste generated from any of the proposed alternatives in the NI PEIS will be managed (i.e., treated, stored and disposed) in a safe and environmentally protective manner and in compliance with all applicable Federal and state laws and regulations and applicable DOE orders.

Commentor No. 1396: Bruce H. Noordhoff

September 7, 2000

Ms. Colette E. Brown
NE-50, Office of Nuclear Science
Energy and Technology
19901 Germantown Road
Germantown, MD 20874

Dear Ms. Brown:

Subject: Comments on Nuclear Infrastructure PEIS-03100

I offer the following comments on NI PEIS-03100 in support of Alternative 1, FFTF Restart.

- I strongly support the enhancement of this EIS by the inclusion of the Nuclear Energy Research and Development for Civilian Applications mission. I share NERAC's conclusion that the capabilities of currently operating DOE facilities will not support a nuclear energy option, if this option becomes necessary. Further, I believe reinvigoration of materials testing capability in support of advanced reactor development could be critical to our country, if "rate rage" from increasing electrical power shortages and price increases occurs.
- From my study of the NI PEIS, I find the FFTF Restart option to be the best of the options in every area of comparison:
 - It is the preeminent option for supporting the nuclear energy research and development mission, especially for materials and nuclear fuels research.
 - It is capable of producing a greater variety and greater volumes of medical isotopes for diagnostic and therapeutic uses.
 - It can supply the specified quantities of Pu-238.
 - The cost comparison shows FFTF Restart can be achieved most economically.
 - The non-proliferation requirements can be satisfied readily.

Therefore, I believe the selection of FFTF Restart as the Preferred Option should be a "slam-dunk" based on the EIS findings.

- It is critical that the Record of Decision on the final NI EIS be based on DOE's vision of the future energy needs of this country. This is the time for statesman-like leadership which reaches decisions through study and conviction. For this decision, it is essential that our leadership stand against the political "winds that blow" to avoid pitfalls having great programmatic and financial risks and consequences of national importance.

1396-1

1396-2

Response to Commentor No. 1396

- 1396-1:** DOE notes the commentor's support for Alternative 1, Restart FFTF. DOE also notes the commentor's statements related to NERAC's findings and agrees with those findings. Chapter 1 of the PEIS presents material related to the NERAC report.
- 1396-2:** DOE notes the commentor's views. DOE's Record of Decision for the NI PEIS will be based on a number of factors including environmental impacts, public input, costs, nonproliferation impacts, schedules, technical assurance, and other policy and programmatic objectives.

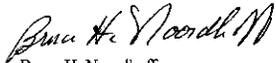
Commentor No. 1396: Bruce H. Noordhoff (Cont'd)

I am reminded how unrelenting anti-nuclear activist pressures influenced the decision to prematurely shutdown the PUREX facility at Hanford in 1990, before the spent fuel in the "pipeline" to PUREX was processed. This decision is still reflected in today's storage of corroding high-level waste in the K Basins close to the Columbia River and the diversion of \$1.5 billion dollars from cleanup programs to move and store this material more safely. Additional funding will be needed in subsequent years to maintain this fuel in storage, as there is no plan to dispose of it.

I encourage the NI EIS-03100 decision-makers to not let pressures from vocal activist groups warp their decision on how best to meet projected U.S. needs for radioisotopes and nuclear research and development over the next 20 years.

FFTF IS TRULY A NATIONAL ASSET
FFTF CAN SERVICE ALL THREE NI EIS PROGRAMS.
RESTART FFTF.
JUST DO IT!

Respectfully submitted,



Bruce H. Noordhoff
Retired

239 Brookwood Loop
Richland, WA 99352

**1396-2
(Cont'd)**

1396-1

Response to Commentor No. 1396

Commentor No. 1397: Gary T. Dilweg

Response to Commentor No. 1397

Draft PEIS Comment Form

Spt 9, 00

Please restart FFTF for medical isotopes. The medical profession, as is any profession, needs as many weapons as possible to fight cancer. Demographics show us that older Americans will be a larger percentage of the American population. We need to give cancer fighters more tools to do their job. There are few, if any, legitimate reasons for not restarting FFTF. I urge you to do so.

Thank you

Gary T. Dilweg

There are several ways to provide comments on the Nuclear Infrastructure PEIS. These include:

- attending public meetings and giving your comments directly to DOE officials
- returning this comment form to the registration desk at the meeting or to the address below
- calling toll-free and leaving your comments: 1-877-562-4593
- faxing your comments toll-free to: 1-877-562-4592
- commenting via e-mail: Nuclear.Infrastructure-PEIS@hq.doe.gov

Name (optional): Gary T. Dilweg

Organization: Citizen

Home/Organization Address (circle one):

City: Green Bay State: WI Zip Code: 54311

Telephone (optional): 920-336-5915

E-mail (optional):

COMMENTS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY September 11, 2000

For more information contact: Colette E. Brown, NE-SO U.S. Department of Energy • 19901 Germantown Road • Germantown, MD 20874 Toll-free Telephone: 1-877-562-4593 • Toll-free Fax: 1-877-542-4592 E-mail: Nuclear.Infrastructure-PEIS@hq.doe.gov



NUCLEAR INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT



1397-1

1397-1: DOE notes the commentor's support for Alternative 1, Restart FFTF.

Commentor No. 1398: Laurel Piippo

FFTF

September 9, 2000

Dear Collette Brown,

The clock is ticking, time is passing, and we're still talking, talking, talking. On the front page of the TRI-CITY HERALD is a story about vitrification for the disposal of nuclear waste costing so many billions of dollars. How long has this discussion gone on? Ten years? Twenty years? Seven years after FFTF was put on standby, we're still talking while cancer patients suffer and die -- just like those nuts in Hood River and Portland want them to do. Please ask, beg, plead, tell, order, demand Secy Richardson in my behalf to GET ON WITH IT -- restart FFTF.

Yesterday the daughter of one of my Senior Peer Counseling clients (a volunteer effort too long to explain) asked me to help her write about her father's death. He died of cancer and asked his daughter to write his thoughts, particularly in regard to treatment by medical isotopes. He worked here and apparently knew about their medical possibilities and told his daughter he was convinced they could have extended his life.

Attached is my evaluation sheet concerning three hearings I attended this month. The method of selecting speakers was excellent, much better than advance registration or signing up. The lottery system was very fair but tough on those who came up last, of course, and must have been tough on you, having to stay till the very end. I do not think that listening to emotional people exchange ignorances -- and that includes me -- is a good way to settle an issue requiring scientific facts and expertise. Taking a poll or majority rules when people are driven by the latest fad or hysteria is not the way to determine restarting FFTF. On the other hand the government did a rotten job of creating nuclear waste, is apparently being very slow to clean it up, and deserves to be screamed at.

The moderator did a good job of controlling the audience, insisting on courtesy, but could have been more firm about limiting us to five minutes. Except for me, of course. Why were THEIR five minutes so much longer than my five minutes?

Again, I want to apologize for whatever sweeping gestures or impassioned words I said that led you to believe I had any negative feelings toward you. You do such an impressive job and are a terrific role model as a woman in charge (even though Charles Kilbury did say, "Thank you, GENTLEMEN, for the opportunity to speak). As I watched you in action, I wished my granddaughters could have seen what you do and how well you do it. It is a pleasure to see you again.

Sincerely,



LAUREL PIIPPO
Vocal Cancer Survivor

Response to Commentor No. 1398

1398-1

1398-1: DOE notes the commentor's support for Alternative 1, Restart FFTF.

1398-2: DOE notes the commentor's remarks concerning the facilitation and format of the NI PEIS public hearings.

1398-2

Commentor No. 1399: Barbara Kinnear-Williams

Hanford Watch
2285 SE Cypress
Portland, Oregon 97214

stamp

Ms. Colette Brown
U.S. Department of Energy
Office of Space and Defense Power Systems
NE-50
19901 Germantown Road
Germantown, Maryland 20874-1290

ISOTOPES NO ANSWER TO CANCER
Public comment on Nuclear Infrastructure Draft Programmatic
Environmental Impact Statement (NI PEIS)

I am opposed to restart of the Fast Flux Test Facility reactor because:

IT IS TOO RISKY TO THE WILDLIFE
AND TO THE HUMAN LIVES IN THE
PACIFIC NORTHWEST. THERE IS NO JUST-
IFICATION FOR EXPANDING THE D.O.E.'S
NUCLEAR FACILITY INFRASTRUCTURE.

Name B. KINNEAR-WILLIAMS
Address 1105 NW 79TH CIRCLE
City, state VANCOUVER WA Zip 98665

Response to Commentor No. 1399

- 1399-1:** DOE notes the commentor's opposition to Alternative 1, Restart FFTF.
- 1399-2:** The concerns expressed on the potential health and environmental effects of NI PEIS Alternative 1 are noted. The environmental impacts associated with operation of the FFTF and support facilities at Hanford during normal operations and from postulated accidents are presented and discussed in Section 4.3 of the NI PEIS. All impacts to human health and to ecological resources would be small in the immediate area of the Hanford site and negligible at all distant locations.
- 1399-3:** DOE has sought independent analysis of trends in the use of medical isotopes, and of its continuing role in this sector, consistent with its mandates under the Atomic Energy Act. In doing so, it established two expert bodies, the Expert Panel and the NERAC. In 1998, the Expert Panel, which convened to forecast future demand for medical isotopes, estimated that the expected growth rate of medical isotope use during the next 20 years would range from 7 to 14 percent per year for therapeutic applications, and 7 to 16 percent per year for diagnostic applications. These findings were later reviewed and endorsed by NERAC, established in 1999 to provide DOE with expert, objective advice regarding the future form of its isotope research and production activities. DOE has adopted these growth projections as a planning tool for evaluating the potential capability of the existing nuclear facility infrastructure to meet programmatic requirements. In the period since the initial estimates were made, the actual growth of medical isotope use has tracked at levels consistent with the Expert Panel findings. Section 1.2.1 of Volume 1 was revised to incorporate this information and to clarify DOE's role in fulfilling the U.S. research and commercial isotope production needs.

Through a Memorandum of Understanding with NASA, DOE provides radioisotope power systems, and the plutonium-238 that fuels them, for space missions that require or would be enhanced by their use. In addition, under the National Space Policy issued by the Office of Science and Technology Policy in September 1996, and consistent with DOE's charter under the Atomic Energy Act, DOE is responsible for maintaining the capability to provide the plutonium-238 needed to support these missions. There are approximately 9 kilograms (19.8 pounds) of plutonium-238 in the U.S. inventory available to support future NASA space missions. Based on NASA guidance to DOE on the potential use of radioisotope power systems for upcoming space missions, it is anticipated that the existing plutonium-238 inventory will be exhausted

Commentor No. 1399: Barbara Kinnear-Williams (Cont'd)

Response to Commentor No. 1399

by approximately 2005. Under the No Action Alternative, DOE would continue to purchase plutonium-238 to meet the space mission needs for the 35-year evaluation period considered in the NI PEIS. However, DOE recognizes that any purchase beyond what is currently available to the United States through the existing contract would likely require negotiation of a new contract and may require additional NEPA review. Section 1.2.2 of Volume 1 was revised to further clarify the purpose and need for reestablishing a domestic plutonium-238 production capability to support NASA space exploration missions.

Clean, safe, reliable nuclear power has a role today and in the future for our national energy security. In recognition of this need, nuclear energy research and development programs have been initiated to address potential long-term barriers to expanded use of nuclear power (e.g., nuclear waste, proliferation, safety, and economics) and to ensure that current nuclear power plants can continue to deliver adequate and affordable energy supplies. An expanded DOE nuclear facility infrastructure is required to support such nuclear energy research and development for civilian applications.

Commentor No. 1400: Fred T. Matica

Hanford Watch
2285 SE Cypress
Portland, Oregon 97214

stamp

Ms. Colette Brown
U. S. Department of Energy
Office of Space and Defense Power Systems
NE-50
19901 Germantown Road
Germantown, Maryland 20874-1290

**Public comment on Nuclear Infrastructure Draft Programmatic
Environmental Impact Statement (NI PEIS)**

I am opposed to restart of the Fast Flux Test Facility reactor because:

I WILL NOT SUPPORT TECHNOLOGICAL FIXES
OF PROBLEMS THAT TECHNOLOGY OR ITS MIS-
APPLICATIONS HAS CAUSED. SIMPLER PREVEN-
TIVE HEALTH CARE; SOLAR ENERGY; LESS FRE-
TRAVEL ARE IN ORDER. FIX OUR EARTH GENTLY
FIRST, THEN GO TO MARS.

Name FRED T. MATICA
Address 1105 NW 79TH CIRCLE
City, state VANCOUVER, WA Zip 98665

1400-1

1400-1: DOE notes the commentor's opposition to Alternative 1, Restart FFTF.

1400-2: DOE notes the commentor's views.

1400-2

Commentor No. 1401: Jack J. Fix

September 8, 2000

Ms. Colette Brown
DOE Office of Space & Defense Power Systems, NE-50
19901 Germantown Road
Germantown, MD 20874-1290

Re: FFTF for Medical Isotopes

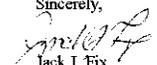
Dear Ms. Brown:

The decision should be made to maintain the Fast Flux Test Facility (FFTF) at Hanford. The FFTF represents one of the most versatile nuclear reactor facilities within DOE. It offers the capability for medical isotope production and even the potential for electrical power generation. The FFTF should be maintained based on considerations of demonstrated scientific contributions, comparative value to DOE programs, and the benefit to US citizens to have assured access to FFTF produced isotopes for medical diagnosis and treatment. Maintaining the FFTF for medical isotope production is widely supported by scientific and medical organizations.

The primary drawback appears to be the outcry of anti-nuclear organizations and politicians that demand no DOE nuclear facility be operated or even maintained at Hanford. The stated reasons are often based on unsound scientific reasons, such as the potential to vaporize Portland, Oregon during an accident or the inability of DOE to handle more than environmental cleanup at Hanford. At best the anti-nuclear organizations support the use of medical isotopes in medical diagnosis and treatment but for the US to import whatever medical isotopes are needed.

I ask that a decision be made to maintain the FFTF to produce medical isotopes based on comparative benefits that will become increasingly evident in the future. The personal testimony of oncologists and cancer patients for the advantages of this technology will continue to grow. The capability to target cancer cells while minimizing damage to healthy tissue cannot be ignored. The aging baby boomer generation will significantly increase the cancer incidence in the years to come and will greatly benefit from this treatment option.

Sincerely,


Jack J. Fix
107 Jackson Ct.
Richland, WA 99352
E-mail: jcfix@3-cities.com

Response to Commentor No. 1401

1401-1

1401-1: DOE notes the commentor's support for Alternative 1, Restart FFTF. It should be pointed out that power production is not one of the missions for which FFTF would be restarted.

1401-2

1401-2: DOE notes the commentor's views. DOE's Record of Decision for the NI PEIS will be based on a number of factors including environmental impacts, public input, costs, nonproliferation impacts, schedules, technical assurance, and other policy and programmatic objectives.

1401-1

Commentor No. 1402: J. E. LaGrange

Response to Commentor No. 1402

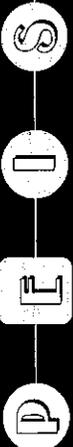
Draft PEIS Comment Form

NE NEED FTFE, please
RE START IT!

1402-1

1402-1: DOE notes the commentor's support for Alternative 1, Restart FTFE.

NUCLEAR INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT



There are several ways to provide comments on the Nuclear Infrastructure PEIS. These include:

- attending public meetings and giving your comments directly to DOE officials
- returning this comment form to the registration desk at the meeting or to the address below
- calling toll-free and leaving your comments: 1-877-562-4593
- faxing your comments toll-free to: 1-877-562-4592
- commenting via e-mail: Nuclear.Infrastructure-PEIS@hq.doe.gov

Name (optional): JE LAGRANGE

Organization:

Home/Organization Address (circle one): PO Box 4556

2111 TURNER ST #28

City: RICHLAND State: WA Zip Code: 99352

Telephone (optional):

E-mail (optional):

COMMENTS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY September 11, 2000

For more information contact: Colette E. Brown, NE-50
 U.S. Department of Energy • 19601 Germantown Road • Germantown, MD 20874
 Toll-free telephone: 1-877-562-4593 • Toll-free Fax: 1-877-562-4592
 E-mail: NuclearInfrastructure-PBS@hq.doe.gov



**Commentor No. 1403: Michael L. Garrison, Mayor,
City of Pasco, WA**



MAYOR (509)545-3404 / **Scan 726-3404** / **Fax (509)545-3403**
P.O. Box 293, 525 North 3rd Avenue, Pasco, Washington 99301

September 8, 2000

Ms. Collette Brown
US Department of Energy NE50
19901 Germantown Road
Germantown, MD 30874-1290

RE: Fast Flux Test Facility Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Ms. Brown:

The City of Pasco supports the use of the Fast Flux Test Facility at Hanford (FFTF) for the production of isotopes for medicine, space missions and other forms of research and development. The FFTF has the economic capability of producing the quantity, variety and the quality of medical isotopes required by the medical industry to treat cancer. In addition, the FFTF has the capability of safely producing industrial grade isotopes, space batteries and can be a world leader in nuclear research.

The final environmental impact statement should designate the FFTF as the preferred alternative for the efficient production of medical isotopes because it is the only facility that can accommodate all the demands of the medical isotope program as well as industry, space and research. The FFTF is the most cost effective means for meeting the entire range of missions proposed.

Sincerely,


Michael L. Garrison
Mayor

MG/TA/tlz
Cc: Congressional Delegation
Keith Klein, DOE – RL

Response to Commentor No. 1403

1403-1

1403-1: DOE notes the commentor's support for Alternative 1, Restart FFTF.

Commentor No. 1404: George T. Taylor

2357 Carriage Street
Richland WA, 99352

September 9, 2000

Colette E. Brown, NE-50
U.S. Department of Energy
19901 Germantown Road
Germantown, MD 20874

Dear Madam

I support the selection of Alternate 1, Restart of FFTF as the preferred alternative for DOE's Infrastructure Programmatic Environment Impact Statement.

Since FFTF is the most modern reactor facility in the DOE complex, it does not make sense to scrap the FFTF, when it can be operated economically to produce the needed medical and industrial isotopes and material to support NASA's missions.

Contrary to the FFTF's opponents' campaign of mis-information and fear, restart of FFTF would NOT threaten the health of the people or environments of Washington, Oregon and the United States. As evidence by the past operation of the FFTF, which set several world records including safe and efficient reactor operation.

Sincerely,

George T. Taylor

1404-1

Response to Commentor No. 1404

1404-1: DOE notes the commentor's support for Alternative 1, Restart FFTF.

Commentor No. 1405: Ethel Noble

NI PEIS Toll_Free Telephone

9/12/00

Ethel Noble
Portland, OR

I am calling to protest the start_up again of the FFTF at Hanford. I am very much concerned about further nuclear waste and I don't think that the start_up is necessary.

|| 1405-1

|| 1405-2

Response to Commentor No. 1405

1405-1: DOE notes the commentor's opposition to Alternative 1, Restart FFTF.

1405-2: DOE notes the commentor's concern regarding waste generation. The NI PEIS addressed the environmental impacts due to the treatment, storage, and disposal of the waste generated by the proposed action for all alternatives and alternative options. Waste minimization programs at each of the proposed sites are also addressed. These programs will be implemented for the alternative selected in the Record of Decision. As discussed in Section 4.3.1.1.13 of the PEIS, the waste generated as a result of FFTF operations is very small compared to wastes generated by other Hanford activities. The waste generated from any of the proposed alternatives in the NI PEIS will be managed (i.e., treated, stored and disposed) in a safe and environmentally protective manner and in compliance with all applicable Federal and state laws and regulations and applicable DOE orders.

Commentor No. 1406: Mary Siebertsen

NI PEIS Toll_Free Telephone

9/12/00

Mary Siebertsen
7705 SW Miner Way
Portland, OR 97225
503_292_1638

I would like to leave my opinion as for the opening up of the reactor in Hanford for the FFTF which you are referring to as PEIS. I am totally and completely opposed to starting up the reactor. I know you are saying you are going to develop isotopes as well but you are also producing tritium which will certainly overwhelm the cancer situation that you claim to be using the isotopes for. I want the cleanup to be done and completed. I do not want the reactor started again. My husband feels the exact same way, so please put both of us down with our opinion. Thank you very much. I do think you should extend the deadline. I think it is to short to get public input.

1406-1

1406-2

1406-3

1406-1

1406-4

Response to Commentor No. 1406

- 1406-1:** DOE notes the commentor's opposition to Alternative 1, Restart FFTF.
- 1406-2:** The purpose of the NI PEIS is to evaluate the environmental impacts of a range of reasonable alternatives to expanding DOE's existing nuclear facility infrastructure to support production of isotopes for medical, research, and industrial uses; production of plutonium-238 for use in future NASA space exploration missions; and U.S. nuclear research and development needs for civilian application. No component of the proposed action is for the purpose of producing tritium, nor is it for the purpose of supporting any defense-related mission.
- 1406-3:** DOE notes the commentor's concerns regarding the existing cleanup mission at Hanford. Although beyond the scope of this NI PEIS, ongoing activities to remediate existing contamination at Hanford are high priority to DOE. The Hanford Site environmental restoration activities are conducted in accordance with the Tri-Party Agreement (i.e., Washington State Department of Ecology, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Department of Energy). This agreement specifies milestones and schedules for restoration of all parts of the Hanford Site. DOE is fully committed to honoring this agreement. The DOE missions delineated in the NI PEIS would not have an impact on Hanford cleanup activities.
- 1406-4:** DOE notes the commentor's request for extension of the public comment period. The Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) "Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act" (40 CFR 1506.10(c)) require that a minimum of 45 days be allowed for public comment on the Draft NI PEIS. As stated in the Notice of Availability (65 FR 46443 et seq.), the public comment period began on July 28, 2000 and continued to September 18, 2000. In preparing the Final PEIS, DOE has assessed and considered both oral and written comments received on the Draft PEIS during the public comment period and has responded to these comments in the Final PEIS. Volume 3 of the NI PEIS contains public comments received on the NI PEIS and DOE responses to those comments. Moreover, late comments were considered to the extent practicable.

Commentor No. 1407: Sandy Mitchell

NI PEIS Toll-Free Telephone

9/11/00

Mr. Sandy Mitchell
10715 1/2 Phinney Ave, North
Seattle, WA 98133
206_440_0148

I am calling to say that I am outraged that the Department of Energy is again trying to start/restart Fast Flux, whatever. I am thoroughly sick of the games that DOE and the Defense Department have been playing with the health of the public, with myself included. I am pretty well informed about the already existing health hazards and fall out. Literally and figuratively. Already above materials already produced at Hanford and fully aware of how difficult the cleanup effort at Hanford has been. I absolutely urge the DOE and government generally to stop this bullshit. Stop lying to us, stop trying to add more contamination to an already incredibly contaminated area.

1407-1

1407-1: DOE notes the commentor's opposition to Alternative 1, Restart FFTF. It should be pointed out that the Department of Defense is not involved in any of the missions or alternatives described in the NI PEIS, nor was it involved in the preparation of the document itself.

1407-2

1407-2: DOE notes the commentor's concerns regarding the existing cleanup mission at Hanford. Although beyond the scope of this NI PEIS, ongoing activities to remediate existing contamination at Hanford are high priority to DOE. The Hanford Site environmental restoration activities are conducted in accordance with the Tri-Party Agreement (i.e., Washington State Department of Ecology, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Department of Energy). This agreement specifies milestones and schedules for restoration of all parts of the Hanford Site. DOE is fully committed to honoring this agreement. The DOE missions delineated in the NI PEIS would not have an impact on Hanford cleanup activities.

Each alternative of the NI PEIS considered and evaluated potential health effects, both in terms of consequences and risks, associated with normal operations and accidental releases from a complete spectrum of accidents including severe accidents. All of the alternatives, including the restart of FFTF, are shown to pose very little risk to the health and safety of the public.

Commentor No. 1408: Lewis D. Burke

NI PEIS Toll_Free Telephone

9/13/00

Lewis D. Burke
 Box 847
 Republic, WA
 (509) 775_2322

This is September 13th, I received this information about these supposed meetings. I don't really realize how they're in the public's interests. I think they're in the special interests. This is government serving the worst interests in the United States.

1408-1

Response to Commentor No. 1408

1408-1: The purpose of this NI PEIS is to evaluate the environmental impacts of reasonable alternatives to fulfill the requirements of the DOE missions, which include the production of medical and industrial isotopes, the production of plutonium-238 for NASA space missions, and nuclear research and development. Other interests are beyond the scope of this NI PEIS. In compliance with NEPA and CEQ regulations, DOE provided opportunity to the public to comment on the environmental impact analysis of DOE's proposed alternatives for meeting mission requirements. In preparing the Final NI PEIS, DOE carefully considered comments received from the public. DOE's Record of Decision for the NI PEIS will be based on a number of factors including environmental impacts, public input, costs, nonproliferation impacts, schedules, technical assurance, and other policy and programmatic objectives.

Commentor No. 1409: John Severson

NI PEIS Toll-Free Telephone

9/13/00

John Severson
(503) 297_8572

My name is John Severson. I've been a small businessman and a resident of Oregon _ Portland, Oregon for a number of years and I do not want to see Hanford start producing Tritium, due to the fact that I don't really see the use for it, I'm not convinced of anybody's argument that it's needed and I prefer to see Hanford decommissioned as was originally scheduled years ago. Just wanted to let you know what my opinion was and if anyone needs to call me me my number is (503) 297_8572.

1409-1

1409-2

Response to Commentor No. 1409

1409-1: The purpose of the NI PEIS is to evaluate the environmental impacts of a range of reasonable alternatives to expanding DOE's existing nuclear facility infrastructure to support production of isotopes for medical, research, and industrial uses; production of plutonium-238 for use in future NASA space exploration missions; and U.S. nuclear research and development needs for civilian application. No component of the proposed action is for the purpose of producing tritium, nor is it for the purpose of supporting any defense-related mission.

1409-2: DOE notes the commentor's opposition to Alternative 1, Restart FFTF, and concerns regarding the existing cleanup mission at Hanford. Although beyond the scope of this NI PEIS, ongoing activities to remediate existing contamination at Hanford are high priority to DOE. The Hanford Site environmental restoration activities are conducted in accordance with the Tri-Party Agreement (i.e., Washington State Department of Ecology, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Department of Energy). This agreement specifies milestones and schedules for restoration of all parts of the Hanford Site. DOE is fully committed to honoring this agreement. The DOE missions delineated in the NI PEIS would not have an impact on Hanford cleanup activities.

DOE was tasked by Congress in the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, to "...ensure the availability of isotopes for medical, industrial, and research applications, meeting the nuclear material needs of other federal agencies, and undertaking research and development of activities related to development of nuclear power for civilian use." The purpose of this PEIS is to determine the environmental and other impacts to accomplishing this mission from all reasonable existing and new DOE resources. The FFTF at the Hanford Site was one of several existing DOE resources that was assessed for this mission.

Commentor No. 1410: Andy Phillipson

NI PEIS Toll_Free Telephone

9/13/00

Andy Phillipson
18923 East Second
Green Acres, WA 99016
(509) 922_0819

Just calling to express support for the FFTF medical isotopes program. I think it's good for the community and good for science and good for America. So put me down in the win column for that one. Thank you so much, bye.

1410-1***Response to Commentor No. 1410***

1410-1: DOE notes the commentor's support for Alternative 1, Restart FFTF.