

**Department of Energy  
Washington, DC 20585**

May 6, 1996

Mssrs: Paul Leventhal, Nuclear Control Institute  
Fred Millar, Nuclear Waste Citizens Coalition  
Paul Gunther, Nuclear Information Resource Service  
Tom Clements, Greenpeace International  
Tom Zamora-Collina, Institute for Science & International Security  
Daryl Kimball, Physicians for Social Responsibility

Gentlemen:

Thank you for your letter of April 29, 1996, to the Secretary of Energy requesting an extension to the period of public comment on the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement on the Storage and Disposition of Weapons-Usable Fissile Materials (PEIS). In your letter, you ask that the public comment period be extended until 45 days after various other documents, including cost and non-proliferation analyses on plutonium disposition alternatives, are made publicly available.

The Department has decided to extend the original 60 day public comment period on the draft PEES which was scheduled to close on May 7, 1996, to June 7, 1996. Formal notification of this extended public comment opportunity will be published as soon as possible in the Federal Register.

Regarding your request that various other documents, including cost and non-proliferation analyses on plutonium disposition alternatives should be incorporated into the PEIS itself, the Department has previously noted that while it does not intend to incorporate such reports within the PRIS, they will be made available for public review this summer. This will be several months in advance of a final PEIS land Record of Decision, currently anticipated for late 1996. Further, the Department will continue to provide opportunities for public input and discussion of such work products with appropriate technical and program staff. In this regard, the Department's Office of Nonproliferation and National Security is undertaking the effort to complete a review of the nonproliferation policy aspects of the various plutonium disposition technology alternatives. This Office is in the preliminary planning stages for future public meetings on this policy analysis effort over the next several months.

We believe that this approach helps to meet your request and supports your efforts to provide input to the Department's decision making process on surplus plutonium disposition.

Sincerely,

(signed)  
Greg Rudy  
Acting Director  
Office of Fissile Materials Disposition



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