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**CONTACT: Steven Dolley**  
**202-822-8444**

## **STATEMENT OF PAUL LEVENTHAL**

**President, Nuclear Control Institute**

### **On Energy Secretary O'Leary's Record of Decision On Military Plutonium Disposition**

We are confident that if the immobilization track is pursued as vigorously as Secretary O'Leary promised, it will be possible to use it to dispose of all 50 tons of excess military plutonium---not just the 8 to 17 tons that she mentioned as minimum amounts. Consequently, we promise a vigorous fight to oppose any introduction of plutonium fuel into American nuclear power plants, and we will join with the 13 other national organizations that have promised such a fight.

Secretary O'Leary's pledge of once-through use of this fuel does not answer serious proliferation concerns. It only encourages other nations to use plutonium fuel and promotes world commerce in this atom-bomb material. Turning military plutonium into reactor fuel is unnecessary and dangerous and should be avoided by both the United States and Russia.



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[nci@mailback.com](mailto:nci@mailback.com)